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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on its work during 2001**

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Chapters I and II

Contents

Chapter		*Paragraphs*	*Page*
	Letter of transmittal		4
I.	Establishment, organization and activities of the Special Committee	1–101	5
	A. Establishment of the Special Committee	1–14	5
	B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 2001 and election of officers	15–16	9
	C. Organization of work	17–20	9
	D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies	21–30	9
	E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable	31–39	11
	F. Consideration of other matters	40–60	14
	1. Matters relating to the small Territories	40–42	14

* A/56/150.

** The present document contains chapters I and II of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. Chapters III-XII of the report will be issued separately in document A/56/23 (Part II). Recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly will be issued separately in document A/56/23 (Part III). The complete report will be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/56/23).

01-46068 (E)

	2.	Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization	43–44	14
	3.	Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters	45–46	14
	4.	Pattern of conferences	47–49	14
	5.	Control and limitation of documentation	50	15
	6.	Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee	51–54	15
	7.	Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee	55	16
	8.	Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights	56	16
	9.	Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations	57	16
	10.	Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly	58–59	16
	11.	Other questions	60	17
G.		Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	61–71	17
	1.	Economic and Social Council	61	17
	2.	Commission on Human Rights	62–63	17
	3.	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	64	17
	4.	Specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations	65–66	17
	5.	Organization of African Unity	67	18
	6.	Caribbean Community	68	18
	7.	Pacific Islands Forum	69	18
	8.	Movement of Non-Aligned Countries	70	18
	9.	Non-governmental organizations	71	18
H.		Action relating to international conventions/studies/programmes	72–74	18
	1.	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	72–73	18
	2.	Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination	74	18
I.		Review of work	75–82	18
J.		Future work	83–99	19

	K. Conclusion of the 2001 session	100–101	22
	Annex List of documents of the Special Committee, 2001		24
II.	Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism		28
	Annex Caribbean Regional Seminar to review the political, economic and social conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, held at Havana, Cuba, from 23 to 25 May 2001		30
III.	Dissemination of information on decolonization		A/56/23 (Part II)
IV.	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories		
V.	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories		
VI.	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their Administration		
VII.	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations		
VIII.	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations		
IX.	Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara		
X.	American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands		
XI.	Tokelau		
XII.	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)		
	Recommendations		A/56/23 (Part III)

Letter of transmittal

7 September 2001

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith to the General Assembly the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/147 of 8 December 2000. The report covers the work of the Special Committee during 2001.

(Signed) Bernard **Tanoh-Boutchoué**
Acting Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

His Excellency Mr. Kofi **Annan**
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

Chapter I
Establishment, organization and activities of the Special Committee

A. Establishment of the Special Committee

1. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Special Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

2. At its seventeenth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[1] the General Assembly adopted resolution 1810 (XVII) of 17 December 1962, by which it enlarged the Special Committee with the addition of seven new members. It invited the Special Committee "to continue to seek the most suitable ways and means for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all Territories which have not yet attained independence".

3. At the same session, by its resolution 1805 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 on the question of South West Africa, the General Assembly requested the Special Committee to discharge, mutatis mutandis, the tasks assigned to the Special Committee for South West Africa by resolution 1702 (XVI) of 19 December 1961. By its resolution 1806 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, the Assembly decided to dissolve the Special Committee for South West Africa.

4. At its eighteenth session, by resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations. It also requested the Special Committee to take that information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to undertake any special study and prepare any special report it might consider necessary.

5. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[2] has adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Special Committee.

6. On the occasion of the tenth, twentieth, twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries of the Declaration, the General Assembly, by approving the related reports of the Special Committee, adopted resolutions 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, 35/118 of 11 December 1980, 40/56 of 2 December 1985 and 45/33 of 20 November 1990, containing a series of recommendations with a view to facilitating the speedy implementation of the Declaration.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, by adopting resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsed as a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1). The plan, inter alia, contained the following provisions:

> "22. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:
>
> "(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory;
>
> "(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;
>
> "(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations,

specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

"23. The Special Committee should continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

"24. The Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies."

8. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, declaring the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action, as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second Decade.

9. At its fifty-fifth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[3] the General Assembly, on 8 December 2000, adopted resolution 55/147, in which, inter alia, it:

"6. Approves the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 2000, including the programme of work envisaged for 2001;[4]

"...

"8. Requests the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Second International Decade in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, including through the dispatch of visiting missions, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

(d) To finalize before the end of 2001 a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;[5]

"...

"14. Reaffirms that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its

mandate and to facilitate visiting missions to the Territories;

"15. Calls upon the administering Powers that have not participated formally in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its session in 2001;".

10. At the same session, the General Assembly also adopted 11 other resolutions and 5 decisions relating to specific Territories or other items on the agenda of the Special Committee, as well as a number of other resolutions relevant to the work of the Special Committee, by which the Assembly entrusted the Special Committee with specific tasks in relation to those Territories and items. Those decisions are listed below.

1. Resolutions, consensus and decisions concerning specific Territories

Resolutions

Territory	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Western Sahara	55/141	8 December 2000
New Caledonia	55/142	8 December 2000
Tokelau	55/143	8 December 2000
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	55/144 A and B	8 December 2000

Decisions

Territory	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	55/411	20 November 2000
Gibraltar	55/427	8 December 2000

2. Resolutions concerning other items

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	55/137	8 December 2000
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	55/138	8 December 2000
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	55/139	8 December 2000
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	55/140	8 December 2000
Dissemination of information on decolonization	55/145	8 December 2000
Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism	55/146	8 December 2000

3. Decisions concerning other questions

Title	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
Observance of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	55/410	14 November 2000
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	55/426	8 December 2000
The situation in East Timor during its transition to independence	55/435	19 December 2000

11. At its 68th plenary meeting, on 20 November 2000, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)" and to include it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session (decision 55/411).

12. At its 86th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2000, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "The situation in East Timor during its transition to independence" and to include it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session (decision 55/435).

4. Other resolutions and decisions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

13. Other resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session that were relevant to the work of the Special Committee and that were taken into consideration by the Special Committee are listed in a note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2001/L.1).

5. Membership of the Special Committee

14. As of 1 January 2001, the Special Committee was composed of the following 23 members:

Antigua and Barbuda	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Bolivia	Iraq
Chile	Mali
China	Papua New Guinea
Congo	Russian Federation
Côte d'Ivoire	Saint Lucia
Cuba	Sierra Leone
Ethiopia	Syrian Arab Republic
Fiji	Tunisia
Grenada	United Republic of Tanzania
India	Venezuela
Indonesia	

A list of representatives who attended the meetings of the Special Committee in 2001 appears in document A/AC.109/2000/INF/39 and its addenda.

B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 2001 and election of officers

15. The Secretary-General addressed the Special Committee at its 1st meeting, on 21 February 2001. The Chairman made a statement at that meeting. Statements were also made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea, the Russian Federation, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Côte d'Ivoire, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Fiji, the Syrian Arab Republic, Indonesia, Venezuela and Ethiopia. The representative of New Zealand, an administering Power, made a statement (see A/AC.109/2001/SR.1).

16. At the same meeting, the Special Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman:

Julian R. Hunte (Saint Lucia)

Vice-Chairmen:

Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla (Cuba)

Bernard Tanoh-Boutchoué (Côte d'Ivoire)

Rapporteur:

Fayssal Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic)

C. Organization of work

17. At its 1st and 3rd meetings, on 21 February and 18 June 2001, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman and the Acting Chairman (A/AC.109/2001/L.2 and Rev.1), the Special Committee decided to maintain its Bureau as the only subsidiary body of the Committee. The Special Committee also decided to adopt the suggestions of the Chairman relating to the allocation of items and the procedure for their consideration (see A/AC.109/2001/L.2/Rev.1).

18. At the 1st meeting, Chairman made a statement relating to the organization of work (see A/AC.109/2001/SR.1).

19. At the 4th meeting, on 19 June 2001, the Acting Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Spain had expressed the wish to participate in the proceedings of the Special Committee on the question of Gibraltar. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

20. At the 8th meeting, on 29 June, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Panama, Paraguay (on behalf of the States members of the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) as well as Bolivia and Chile) and Uruguay had requested to participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies

21. In keeping with its resolve to continue taking all possible measures to rationalize the organization of its work, and with the full and close cooperation of its entire membership, the Special Committee and its subsidiary body were again able to keep to a minimum the number of their formal meetings, as indicated below, by holding, whenever possible, informal meetings and extensive consultations through officers of the Special Committee.

1. Special Committee

22. The Special Committee held 10 meetings at Headquarters during 2001, as follows:

(a) First part of the session: 1st meeting, 21 February and 2nd meeting, 12 March;

(b) Second part of the session: 3rd to 4th meetings, 18-19 June; 5th to 6th meetings, 21 June; 7th to 8th meetings, 28-29 June; 9th to 10th meetings, 2-3 July.

23. During the session, the Special Committee considered in plenary meetings the following questions and adopted decisions thereon, as indicated below:

Question	*Meetings*	*Decision*
Dissemination of information on decolonization	3rd	A/56/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sect. G
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	3rd	A/56/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sect. A
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories	3rd, 8th	A/56/23 (Part II), chap. IV, para. 18
Special Committee decision of 12 July 2000 concerning Puerto Rico	5th , 6th	A/56/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 39
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	7th	A/56/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sect. F
Tokelau	7th	A/56/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sect. E
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	8th	A/56/23 (Part II), para. 107
Gibraltar	4th, 8th	A/56/23 (Part II), para. 61
New Caledonia	7th, 9th 10th	A/56/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sect. D
Western Sahara	6th	A/56/23 (Part II), para. 74
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	9th	A/56/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sect. C
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	10th	A/56/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sect. B
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	10th	A/56/23 (Part III), sect. H

2. Subsidiary bodies

Bureau

24. At its 1st and 3rd meetings, on 21 February and 18 June 2001, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman and the Acting Chairman (A/AC.109/2001/L.2 and Rev.1), the Special Committee decided to maintain its Bureau as the only subsidiary body of the Committee.

25. During the period covered by the present report, the Bureau held five meetings.

Working Group on the Economic and Social Council

26. On 30 June 2000, on the suggestion of the Chairman, the Special Committee established a Working Group on the Economic and Social Council, which was entrusted with the task of preparing an agenda and recommendations for the organization of the joint meeting of the Special Committee and the Economic and Social Council. The Working Group is composed of the representatives of Bolivia, China, Congo, Cuba, Fiji, India, Indonesia, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela. The representative of Cuba was appointed Chairman of the Working Group. The Working Group held one meeting on 4 October 2000 and adopted recommendations on the joint meeting of the Special Committee and the Economic and Social Council. On 31 October 2000 the Chairman transmitted those recommendations to the President of the Economic and Social Council.

27. At its 1st meeting, on 21 February 2001, the Committee, on the suggestion by the Chairman, authorized the representative of Cuba, in his capacity as Chairman of the Working Group on the Economic and Social Council, to continue to review all issues related to the holding of a joint meeting of the Special Committee and the Economic and Social Council.

Working Group on the Programme of Work for the Non-Self-Governing Territories

28. At its 1st meeting, on 21 February, the Committee on the proposal by the Chairman, decided to establish a Working Group, to be chaired by the representative of Papua New Guinea, to continue consultations with the administering Powers on the constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Committee.

29. The Working Group held two informal meetings on 25 and 26 of July with the representatives of New Zealand, administering Power for Tokelau, Ulu o Tokelau and the Administrator of Tokelau on the programme of work for Tokelau.

30. At its 10th meeting, on 3 July 2001, following the statement by the Chairman, the Special Committee adopted a report of the Special Committee on pending matters related to its work (A/AC.109/2001/L.15 and Corr.1) without a vote.

E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

31. At its 1st and 3rd meetings, on 21 February and 18 June 2001, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman and the Acting Chairman (A/AC.109/2001/L.2 and Rev.1), the Special Committee decided to take the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable as appropriate. In taking that decision, the Special Committee recalled that, in its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session,[6] it had stated that, subject to any directives that the Assembly might wish to give in that connection, it would continue, as part of its programme of work for 2001, to review the list of Territories to which the Declaration applied. The Special Committee also recalled that, in paragraph 6 of its resolution 55/147, the Assembly had approved the report of the Special Committee, including the programme of work envisaged by the Special Committee for 2001.

32. At its 10th meeting, on 3 July 2001, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fifty-sixth session (see A/AC.109/2001/L.15 and Corr.1, para. 10).

Special Committee decision of 12 July 2000 concerning Puerto Rico[7]

33. At its 1st and 3rd meetings, on 21 February and 18 June 2001, by adopting the suggestions relating to

the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman and the Acting Chairman (A/AC.109/2001/L.2 and Rev.1), the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate the item entitled "Special Committee decision of 12 July 2000 concerning Puerto Rico" and to consider it at plenary meetings.

34. At its 5th meeting, on 21 June 2001, the Chairman drew attention to a number of communications received from organizations expressing the wish to be heard on Puerto Rico by the Special Committee. At the same meeting, the Special Committee agreed to accede to those requests and heard the representatives of the organizations concerned (see A/AC.109/2001/SR.5 and 6), as indicated below:

(a) 5th meeting

Jaime Ruberté, Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico; Juan Franco-Medina, on behalf of Nuevo Movimiento Independentista Puertorriqueño; Juan Mari Bras, on behalf of Causa Comun Independentista (Proyecto Educativo Puertorriqueño); Wilfredo Santiago-Valiente, United Statehooders Organization of New York, Inc.; Jorge Farinacci Garcia, Frente Socialista; Maria de Lourdes Santiago, on behalf of Partido Independentista Puertorriqueño; Rosa Meneses Albizu-Campos,on behalf of Partido Nacionalista de Puerto Rico, Miguel Otero Chavez, on behalf of Gran Oriente Nacional de Puerto Rico; Ismael Guadalupe, on behalf of Comité Pro Rescate y Desarrollo de Vieques; Edgardo Díaz-Díaz, on behalf of Sociedad Bolivariana de Puerto Rico; Vanessa Ramos, Asociación Americana de Juristas; Jose I. Adames, Al Frente; Nilda Luz Rexach, National Advancement for Puerto Rican Culture; Luis Barrios, Iglesia San Romero de Las Américas; Jose Joaquin Rivera, Estadidad 2000 Inc.; Martin Koppel, Socialist Workers Party; Salvador Vargas Jr., Concerned Puerto Rican Americans and Carlos M. Hernández López, Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico.

(b) 6th meeting

Edwin Pagán, Pro Libertad; Jaime A. Medina, The Working Group on Puerto Rico; Elliot Monteverde-Torres, Center for Constitutional Rights; Héctor L. Pesquera, on behalf of Congreso Nacional Hostosiano; Rosa Escobar, Women for Peace and Justice for Vieques, Puerto Rico; Anita Velez Mitchell, Primavida; Jose Ernesto Cordero, Cultural Literary Association Hispanic American, Inc. (CLAHI) and Manuel Rivera, Puertorriqueños Unidos en Acción.

35. At the 5th meeting, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2001/L.7.

36. At the 6th meeting, statements in explanation of their position were made by the representatives of Chile, Papua New Guinea, Iraq, Venezuela and the Islamic republic of Iran (see A/AC.109/2001/SR.6).

37. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2001/L.7 without a vote (A/AC.109/2001/22).

38. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made a statement (see A/AC.109/2001/SR.6).

39. The text of resolution A/AC.109/2001/22, adopted by the Special Committee at its 6th meeting, on 21 June 2001, appears below:

The Special Committee,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Considering that the decade of the 1990s, was proclaimed by the General Assembly, in its resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, as the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and that under resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, the General Assembly declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Bearing in mind the nineteen resolutions and decisions adopted by the Special Committee on the question of Puerto Rico, contained in the reports of the Special Committee to the General Assembly,

Recalling that 25 July 2001 marks the one hundred and third anniversary of the intervention in Puerto Rico by the United States of America,

Further recalling the diverse initiatives taken by the political representatives of Puerto Rico and the United States in recent years, which have thus far failed to set in motion the process of decolonization of Puerto Rico,

Stressing the need for the United States to lay the groundwork for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Taking into account the proposals to convene a sovereign Constituent Assembly of the people of Puerto Rico as part of the search for realistic procedures which would make it possible to launch the process of decolonization of Puerto Rico,

Aware that Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, has been used for over fifty years by the United States Marines to carry out military manoeuvres, thus limiting access by the civilian population to a space scarcely a quarter of the island, and having a negative impact on the health of the population, the environment and the economic and the social development of the Territory,

Regretting that, the Government of the United States has resumed its military manoeuvres and bombings on Vieques Island, which is inhabited, removing and incarcerating hundreds of peaceful demonstrators, including political personalities, and imposing further restrictions on the civilian population,

Noting the consensus among the people as well as in the Government of Puerto Rico on the urgency of halting military manoeuvres on Vieques Island and on the return of occupied land to the people of Puerto Rico,

Further noting the consensus among the people of Puerto Rico in favour of the release of all Puerto Rican prisoners who have been serving sentences in United States prisons on cases related to Puerto Rico's independence,

Recalling the release of eleven Puerto Rican political prisoners in 2000,

Further noting that the final document of the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Cartagena, Colombia on 8 and 9 April 2000,[8] reaffirms the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence on the basis of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and requests the Special Committee to continue actively pursuing the issue of Puerto Rico,

Having heard statements and testimonies representative of various viewpoints among the people of Puerto Rico and their social institutions,

Having considered the report of the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the implementation of the resolutions concerning Puerto Rico,[9]

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the applicability of the fundamental principles of that resolution to the question of Puerto Rico;

2. *Reiterates* that the Puerto Rican people constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation that has its own and unequivocal national identity;

3. *Calls upon* the Government of the United States of America to assume its responsibility of expediting a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that, during the past two years, progress has been achieved towards the implementation of a mechanism ensuring the full participation of representatives of all viewpoints prevailing in Puerto Rico, such as the proposals to convene a sovereign Constituent Assembly of the people of Puerto Rico;

5. *Reiterates its hope* that the General Assembly of the United Nations will give comprehensive consideration to the question of Puerto Rico in all its aspects;

6. *Urges* the Government of the United States, in line with the need to guarantee to the Puerto Rican people their legitimate right to self-determination and the protection of their human rights, to order the immediate halt of its armed forces' military drills and manoeuvres on Vieques Island, which is inhabited, return the occupied land to the people of Puerto Rico, halt the persecution, incarcerations, arrests and harassment of peaceful demonstrators, immediately release all persons incarcerated in this connection, respect fundamental human rights, such as the right to health and economic development, and decontaminate the impact areas;

7. *Requests* the President of the United States of America to release all Puerto Rican political prisoners serving sentences in United States prisons on cases related to the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico;

8. *Notes with satisfaction* the report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee,[9] in compliance with its resolution of 12 July 2000;

9. *Requests* the Rapporteur to report to the Special Committee in the year 2002 on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to keep the question of Puerto Rico under continuous review.

F. Consideration of other matters

1. Matters relating to the small Territories

40. At its 1st and 3rd meetings, on 21 February and 18 June 2001, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman and the Acting Chairman (A/AC.109/2001/L.2 and Rev.1), the Special Committee decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "Matters relating to the small Territories" and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

41. In taking those decisions, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 55/147, in paragraph 8 (c) of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence.

42. During the year, the Special Committee gave extensive consideration to all phases of the situation obtaining in the small Territories (see A/56/23 (Part II), chaps. X-XII).

2. Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization

43. At its 1st and 3rd meetings, on 21 February and 18 June 2001, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman and the Acting Chairman (A/AC.109/2001/L.2 and Rev.1), the Special Committee decided to consider in plenary meetings the question of compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization.

44. The Special Committee took that decision into account in its consideration of specific items.

3. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

45. At its 1st and 3rd meetings, on 21 February and 18 June 2001, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman and the Acting Chairman (A/AC.109/2001/L.2 and Rev.1), the Special Committee decided to take up the question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters as appropriate.

46. Having regard to its programme of work for 2002, the Special Committee, at its 10th meeting, on 3 July 2001, considered the question of holding meetings away from Headquarters, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961 and paragraph 3 (9) of resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, by which the Assembly authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided that it would consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 2002 and that, when particulars of such meetings had become known, it would request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provision in accordance with established procedure (see A/AC.109/2001/L.15 and Corr.1, paras. 2 and 3).

4. Pattern of conferences

47. At its 1st and 3rd meetings, on 21 February and 18 June 2001, by adopting the suggestions relating to

the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman and the Acting Chairman (A/AC.109/2001/L.2 and Rev.1), the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate the item entitled "Pattern of conferences". In so doing, the Special Committee was conscious of the fact that it had initiated some important measures in rationalizing its work methods, many of which were subsequently incorporated in a number of resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly. Further recalling the measures it had taken theretofore in that connection, the Special Committee decided to continue to exercise its initiatives in the effective utilization of the limited conference resources and the further reduction of its documentation requirements.

48. The Special Committee also continued the practice of circulating communications and information material, as far as possible, in the form of informal notes and aides-mémoires in the original language of submission, thus curtailing documentation requirements and accruing considerable savings for the Organization. A list of the documents issued by the Special Committee in 2001 is contained in the annex to the present chapter.

49. At its 10th meeting, on 3 July 2001, the Special Committee considered the item and noted that, during the year, it had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 55//222 of 23 December 2000. By organizing its programme of work effectively and holding extensive consultations, the Committee strived to keep the number of its formal meetings to a minimum. The Special Committee decided, taking into account its probable workload for 2002, to consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) Plenary	
February/March	As required
June/July	Up to 30 meetings
	(6-8 meetings a week)
(b) Bureau	
February/July	20 meetings

It was understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 2002, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Special Committee decided, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, to strive, while fulfilling its mandate, to keep its meetings to a minimum (see A/AC.109/2000/L.15 and Corr.1, paras. 5-7).

5. Control and limitation of documentation

50. At its 10th meeting, on 3 July 2001, the Special Committee considered the question of the control and limitation of documentation and noted that, during the year, it had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 39/68 D of 13 December 1984, 51/211 B of 18 December 1996 and 55/222 of 23 December 2000. The Special Committee noted that, in its resolution 50/206 B of 23 December 1995, the General Assembly had approved the recommendation of the Special Committee to replace its verbatim records by summary records. Having reviewed the need for such records, the Special Committee decided to maintain its summary records (see A/AC.109/2000/L.15 and Corr.1, paras. 8 and 9).

6. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee

51. In compliance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the delegation of New Zealand, as the administering Power, continued to participate, in accordance with established procedure, in the related work of the Special Committee (see A/56/23 (Part II), chaps. IX and XI).

52. The delegation of France participated in the work of the Special Committee during its consideration of the question of New Caledonia (see A/56/23 (Part II), chap. IX).

53. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America did not participate in the work of the Special Committee.[10] However, during informal consultations with the Special Committee held in May 2000, both administering Powers expressed their desire to continue informal dialogue with the Special Committee (see sects. I and J of the present chapter). The representative of the United Kingdom participated for the first time in the Caribbean regional seminar held at

Havana, Cuba, from 23 to 25 May 2001 (see chap. II, annex).

54. In a related context, the Special Committee, at its 8th meeting, on 29 June 2001, adopted resolution A/AC.109/2001/26 on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. By that resolution, the Special Committee noted with appreciation that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, a visiting mission had been dispatched to Tokelau in July 1994. It called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration (see A/56/23 (Part II), para. 16).

7. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

55. At its 10th meeting, on 3 July 2001, the Special Committee considered the question of the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work and decided that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended by the Plan of Action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61, annex), should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session (see A/AC.109/L.1791, annex, and A/AC.109/L.1804). In that regard, the Special Committee decided to consider the guidelines at its plenary meetings with a view to amending them further, where appropriate (see A/AC.109/2001/L.15 and Corr.1, para. 13).

8. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories

56. Information on the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories is contained in A/56/23, chapter II, annex, paragraph 16 and appendices III, V and VI, and in A/56/23 (Part II), chapter III, paragraph 8.

9. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

57. At its 10th meeting, on 3 July 2001, the Special Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 21 February 2001, the Committee would authorize its Chairman to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice and on the basis of the principle of rotation, the Chairman would hold consultations with the Bureau members who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Special Committee also decided that the Chairman would also have consultations with those members of the Committee whose regional group was not represented in the Bureau. It also decided to recommend that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 2002 (see A/AC.109/2001/L.15 and Corr.1, para. 4).

10. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

58. At its 1st and 3rd meetings, on 21 February and 18 June 2001, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman and the Acting Chairman (A/AC.109/2001/L.2 and Rev.1), and in accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly, the Special Committee decided to follow the procedure adopted at its 2000 session[11] in connection with the formulation of its recommendations to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

59. At its 10th meeting, on 3 July 2001, with reference to its decision taken at the 3rd meeting, on 18 June 2001, the Special Committee, on the proposal of the Chairman, authorized the Rapporteur to reformulate the Committee's draft resolutions and decisions into the format of the General Assembly and to submit

directly to the Assembly various chapters of the report in accordance with established practice and procedure.

11. Other questions

60. At its 1st and 3rd meetings, on 21 February and 18 June 2001, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman and the Acting Chairman (A/AC.109/2001/L.2 and Rev.1), the Special Committee decided, in its examination of specific Territories, to take into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions and decisions listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2001/L.1, para. 11). That decision was taken into account during the consideration of specific Territories and other items in plenary meetings.

G. Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

1. Economic and Social Council

61. In connection with the Special Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and in accordance with paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 55/139 relating to the item, consultations were held between the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee to consider appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. The Special Committee established a Working Group entrusted with the task of preparing an agenda and recommendations for the organization of the joint meeting of the Council and the Special Committee (for details, see paras. 26 and 27 of the present chapter).

2. Commission on Human Rights

62. During the year, the Special Committee closely followed the work of the Commission on Human Rights with regard to the question of the right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial domination, and to the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent Territories.

63. In its consideration of the Territories concerned, the Special Committee took into account the relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-seventh session, in 2001, including resolutions on the question of Western Sahara (2001/1), the right to development (2001/9), the question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights (2001/30), the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (2001/53), the working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994 (2001/58), the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (20010/59), and the work of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2001/60). The Special Committee further took into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 55/77, 55/80, 55/85, 55/104 and 55/108 of 4 December 2000.

3. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

64. During the year, having regard to the relevant provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Special Committee continued to follow the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (see also paras. 72 and 73 below).

4. Specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

65. In accordance with the requests contained in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Special Committee continued its consideration of the question of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (see also para. 61 above). An account of the Special Committee's

consideration of the question is set out in chapter VII of the present report (see A/56/23 (Part II)).

66. During the year, the Special Committee adopted decisions relating to the extension of assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Those decisions are reflected in recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see A/56/23 (Part III), chap. XIII).

5. Organization of African Unity

67. Bearing in mind its previous decisions to maintain contact with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, closely followed the work of OAU.

6. Caribbean Community

68. Bearing in mind its previous decisions to maintain contact with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, closely followed the work of CARICOM.

7. Pacific Islands Forum

69. The Special Committee continued to follow closely the work of the Pacific Islands Forum concerning the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the South Pacific region.

8. Movement of Non-Aligned Countries

70. The Special Committee continued to follow closely the work of the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries regarding the issue of decolonization.

9. Non-governmental organizations

71. Having regard to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 55/145 and 55/147, the Special Committee continued to follow closely the activities of non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization. The participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Special Committee during the period under review is covered in detail in the Special Committee documents (see A/AC.109/2001/19) and the present report (see para. 34 above and chap. II, annex, below). The related decisions of the Special Committee are listed in chapter XIII of the present report (see A/C/56/23 (Part III)).

H. Action relating to international conventions/studies/programmes

1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

72. At its 1st and 3rd meetings, on 21 February and 18 June 2001, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman and the Acting Chairman (A/AC.109/2001/L.2 and Rev.1), the Special Committee decided to include in the agenda of its 2001 session an item entitled "International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

73. The Special Committee continued to monitor related developments in the Territories, having regard to the relevant provisions of article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex).

2. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

74. The Special Committee continued to take into account the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations bodies concerned relating to the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, including in particular General Assembly resolution 55/84 of 4 December 2000 and the relevant report of the Secretary-General (A/55/285).

I. Review of work

75. As noted elsewhere in the present report, the reform processes initiated by the Special Committee in 1991, which brought about a number of changes and improvements in its approach, methods and procedures, continued to be actively pursued in 2001. The measures adopted by the Special Committee included the streamlining and consolidation of a number of its resolutions. With regard to the preparation of the consolidated draft resolution, the Special Committee held extensive informal consultations with the

administering Powers concerned and other States as well as with the representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee's recommendation to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on 12 Territories was consolidated into two resolutions (A/AC.109/2001/23 and A/AC.109/2001/24; see A/56/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sects. E and F).

76. The Special Committee also reviewed its resolutions on information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations (A/AC.109/2001/21), the question of sending visiting missions to Territories (A/AC.109/2001/26), economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2001/27) and implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/AC.109/2000/29), as well as its decision on military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (A/AC.109/2001/28).

77. As noted in chapter II of the present report, the Special Committee held a Caribbean regional seminar at Havana, Cuba, from 23 to 25 May 2001 in implementation of the Plan of Action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism referred to in the General Assembly in its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000.

78. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly, the Special Committee continued to seek suitable means for the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories to which the Declaration is applicable and formulated specific proposals and recommendations in that regard.

79. On the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Special Committee adopted a resolution (A/AC.109/2001/20) which it recommends to the General Assembly for action at its fifty-sixth session (see A/56/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sect. G).

80. The Special Committee also continued its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable. With regard to its decision of 12 July 2000 concerning Puerto Rico, the Special Committee heard a number of representatives of organizations concerned and adopted a resolution on the matter (A/AC.109/2001/24), which is set out in paragraph 39 of the present chapter.

81. During the period under review, the Special Committee continued the critical review of its work and programme of future work by holding a number of informal meetings. The Special Committee continued discussion on the case-by-case work programmes for each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories within the framework of the Working Group on the Programme of Work for the Non-Self-Governing Territories (see paras. 26 and 27 above) and held a series of informal consultations on the matter with the administering Powers concerned with a view to improving cooperation between the Committee and the administering Powers (see sect. J below).

82. In accordance with the guidelines established by the General Assembly, the Special Committee was able during the year to reduce the number of its formal meetings and to minimize the wastage resulting from cancellation of scheduled meetings.

J. Future work

83. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly since 1961 and subject to further directives from the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, the Special Committee intends to continue during 2002 to pursue its efforts in bringing to a speedy and unconditional end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with Article 73 of the Charter and the Declaration.

84. The beginning of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism underlined the need for redoubling efforts to advance the decolonization agenda of the United Nations.

85. In 2002, the Special Committee intends to continue and intensify its dialogue and cooperation with the administering Powers for the purpose of furthering the cause of decolonization through the development of programmes of work for specific Territories as agreed in 2000 and 2001. Basic working documentation and reference material for this purpose has been prepared and distributed, on an informal basis, with the concerned Member States and Non-Self-Governing Territories. In accordance with the agreements reached with the administering Powers concerned, they will ensure the participation of representatives of the Territories at every stage of

discussions. The Special Committee will continue to exercise flexibility in working jointly with the administering Power and the representatives of the Territories in developing work programmes for American Samoa, Pitcairn and Tokelau respectively. The members of the Special Committee were particularly encouraged by the fruitful meetings held in June 2001 with the representatives of New Zealand and Tokelau regarding advances in the process towards self-determination in this Territory. In the coming year, the Special Committee will follow further advances in this field in the framework of the work programme for Tokelau.

86. In order to discharge its responsibilities, the Special Committee will keep under continuous review any developments concerning each Territory. It will also review the compliance by Member States, particularly the administering Powers, with the relevant decisions and resolutions of the United Nations.

87. The Special Committee will continue to submit conclusions and recommendations on the specific measures necessary to achieve the objectives set out in the Declaration and the relevant provisions of the Charter. The Special Committee also intends to continue its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable.

88. The Special Committee will continue to fulfil the responsibilities that have been entrusted to it in the context of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, declared by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/146 and particularly with regard to the implementation of the Plan of Action contained in document A/56/61, which updates the Plan of Action approved by the General Assembly in resolution 46/181 in 1991. The Special Committee will continue to conduct seminars with the participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the situation in the Territories, in order to facilitate the implementation of its mandate. It will also continue to disseminate information on the work of the Special Committee. In this connection, the Special Committee will hold a seminar in the Pacific region in 2002.

89. The Special Committee will continue to seek the views of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in that regard will seek the implementation of General Assembly resolutions calling upon the administering Powers to cooperate or to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee by inviting United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration. Having regard to the constructive role played by such missions in the past, the Special Committee continues to attach the utmost importance to the dispatch of visiting missions as a means of collecting adequate and first-hand information on conditions in the Territories and on the wishes and aspirations of the peoples concerning their future status. Accordingly, the Special Committee will continue to seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in facilitating the implementation of the Special Committee's mandate for visiting missions, particularly in the context of developing work programmes for specific Territories and in support of the decolonization process in those Territories.

90. The Special Committee will continue to pay special attention to the specific problems of the small island Territories, which constitute the overwhelming majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee is aware that, in addition to general problems facing developing countries, those island Territories also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragility of ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of individuals with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens. The Special Committee will continue to recommend measures to facilitate a sustained and balanced growth of the fragile economies of those Territories and increased assistance in the development of all the sectors of their economies, with particular emphasis on programmes of diversification. The Special Committee believes that issues facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories, such as environmental problems; the impact of hurricanes, volcanoes and other natural disasters, beach and coastal erosion and drought; finding ways and means to fight drug trafficking, money laundering and other illegal and criminal activities; and the illegal exploitation of the marine resources of the Territories and the need to

utilize those resources for the benefit of their peoples, should remain the focus of its attention. In so doing, the Special Committee will continue to take into consideration the recommendations of the regional seminars that it has organized since 1990.[12]

91. It is the intention of the Special Committee to continue to follow closely the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. In so doing, the Special Committee, as in the past, will review the actions taken or envisaged by international organizations in the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. The Special Committee will hold further consultations and contacts with those organizations, as appropriate. It will also be guided by the results of consultations held in 2001 between its Chairman and the President of the Economic and Social Council in the context of the relevant decisions of the Assembly, the Council and the Special Committee itself. Furthermore, the Special Committee will maintain close contact with the secretaries-general and senior officials of regional organizations such as the OAU, OAS, the Caribbean Community and the Pacific Islands Forum, particularly those in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. The objective of those contacts is to facilitate the effective implementation of the decisions of the various United Nations bodies and to foster cooperation between the specialized agencies and the regional organizations in providing the Non-Self-Governing Territories in a given region with assistance.

92. The Special Committee will also strive to follow up on the General Assembly's request that the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations be facilitated so that the Territories can benefit from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system. Such participation would constitute an effective means of promoting the progress of the peoples of those Territories, enabling them to enhance their standard of living and achieve greater self-sufficiency.

93. The Special Committee intends to take into account the agreement reached with the European Union on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2001/29) and to continue its cooperation with interested States to ensure that the interests of the peoples of those Territories are protected. The Special Committee will continue its study of military activities and arrangements in the Territories and will also cooperate with interested States in that regard.

94. Taking into consideration its mandate on Western Sahara and its primary responsibility to ensure the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) for all Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in accordance with a decision it had taken at its 1397th meeting, on 23 August 1991, the Special Committee may dispatch a mission to Western Sahara during the holding of the referendum in the Territory.

95. Taking into account the views expressed by the representatives of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories at the regional seminars organized by the Special Committee since 1990, as well as the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Special Committee will continue to consider, in cooperation with the administering Powers, how to intensify and improve the participation of the representatives of those Territories in the work of the Special Committee within existing resources.

96. In the light of the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions concerning the pattern of conferences and taking into consideration its experience in previous years as well as its probable workload for 2002, the Special Committee has approved a tentative programme of meetings for 2002, which it commends to the Assembly for approval.

97. The Special Committee has consistently reiterated the importance of disseminating information on decolonization as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration. Accordingly, the Special Committee will continue to use opportunities such as the regional seminars and the observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to disseminate information on its activities and on the Territories in an effort to mobilize world public opinion to support and assist the people of the Territories in bringing about the speedy and unconditional end of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

98. The Special Committee suggests that, when the General Assembly, at its fifty-sixth session, examines the question of the implementation of the Declaration, it may wish to take into account the various recommendations of the Special Committee that are

reflected in the relevant chapters of the present report and, in particular, to endorse the proposals outlined in the present section in order to enable the Special Committee to carry out the tasks it envisages for 2002. The Special Committee recommends that the Assembly renew its appeal to the administering Powers to take all necessary steps for the implementation of the Declaration and the relevant United Nations resolutions, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples of the Territories concerned. In that connection, the Special Committee recommends that the Assembly request all the administering Powers to become involved with the work of the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and, in particular, to participate actively in the work relating to the Territories under their respective administrations. The Special Committee also recommends that the Assembly continue to invite the administering Powers to allow representatives of the Territories concerned to participate in the discussions in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Special Committee on the items relating to their respective Territories. Furthermore, the Assembly may also wish to renew its appeal to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to comply with the various requests addressed to them by the Assembly and the Security Council in their relevant resolutions.

99. The Special Committee recommends that, in approving the programme of work outlined above, the General Assembly make adequate provision to cover the activities that the Special Committee envisages for 2002. In that regard, the Special Committee recalls that the programme budget for the biennium 2002–2003 includes resources to provide for the programme of work of the Special Committee for 2002-2003 based on the level of activities approved for 2001, without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session. On that basis, the Special Committee understands that, should any additional provisions be required over and above those included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, proposals for supplementary requirements would be made to the General Assembly for its approval. Finally, the Special Committee expresses the hope that the Secretary-General will continue to provide it with all the facilities and personnel necessary for the discharge of its mandate, taking into account the various tasks assigned to it by the Assembly as well as those arising from decisions taken by it during the current year.

K. Conclusion of the 2001 session

100. At its 10th meeting, on 3 July 2001, the Special Committee decided to authorize its Rapporteur to prepare and submit directly to the General Assembly the various chapters of the report of the Special Committee in accordance with established practice and procedure.

101. At the same meeting, the Chairman made a statement on the occasion of the closing of the 2001 session of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/2001/SR.10).

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes*, addendum to agenda item 25, document A/5238.

[2] See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to fifty-fifth sessions. For the most recent, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/54/23); and ibid., *Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/55/23).

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/55/23).

[4] See A/55/23 (Part I), chap. I, sect.J. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23.*

[5] See resolution 2911 (XXVII).

[6] Ibid., chap. I, para. 29.

[7] Ibid., chap. I, para. 39.

[8] A/54/917-S/2000/580, annex.

[9] A/AC.109/2001/L.3.

[10] For the explanation of their non-participation, see documents A/47/86, A/42/651, annex, and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/41/23,), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.

[11] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/55/23), chap. I, paras. 59 and 60.

[12] See A/AC.109/1040 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1043, A/AC.109/1114, A/AC.109/1159, A/AC.109/2030, A/AC.109/2058, A/AC.109/2089, A/AC.109/2121, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/54/23), annex II, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/55/23), annex II, and chapter II of the present report, annex.

Annex

List of documents of the Special Committee, 2001

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
Documents issued in the general series		
A/AC.109/2001/INF/39 and Add.1	List of delegations	25 June 2001
A/AC.109/2001/1	Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Caribbean Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories, to be held at Havana, Cuba, from 23 to 25 May 2001: guidelines and rules of procedure	16 March 2001
A/AC.109/2001/2	Pitcairn (working paper)	3 April 2001
A/AC.109/2001/3	United States Virgin Islands (working paper)	3 April 2001
A/AC.109/2001/4	Guam (working paper)	20 April 2001
A/AC.109/2001/5	Tokelau (working paper)	20 April 2001
A/AC.109/2001/6	Montserrat (working paper)	23 April 2001
A/AC.109/2001/7	Turks and Caicos Islands (working paper)	10 May 2001
A/AC.109/2001/8	British Virgin Islands (working paper)	9 May 2001
A/AC.109/2001/9	Bermuda (working paper)	3 May 2001
A/AC.109/2001/10	Gibraltar (working paper)	14 May 2001
A/AC.109/2001/11	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (working paper)	15 May 2001
A/AC.109/2001/12	Western Sahara (working paper)	9 May 2001
A/AC.109/2001/13	Anguilla (working paper)	16 May 2001
A/AC.109/2001/14	New Caledonia (working paper)	17 May 2001
A/AC.109/2001/15	Cayman Islands (working paper)	23 May 2001
A/AC.109/2001/16	Saint Helena (working paper)	29 May 2001
A/AC.109/2001/17	American Samoa (working paper)	29 May 2001
A/AC.109/2001/18	East Timor (working paper)	30 May 2001

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2001/19	Dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from June 2000 to May 2001: report of the Department of Public Information	12 June 2001
A/AC.109/2001/20	Dissemination of information on decolonization: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 18 June 2001	18 June 2001
A/AC.109/2001/21	Information on Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 18 June 2001	18 June 2001
A/AC.109/2001/22	Special Committee decision of 12 July 2000 concerning Puerto Rico: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 6th meeting, on 21 June 2001	22 June 2001
A/AC.109/2001/23	Questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 7th meeting, on 28 June 2001	3 July 2001
A/AC.109/2001/24	Question of Tokelau: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 7th meeting, on 28 June 2001	3 July 2001
A/AC.109/2001/25	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 8th meeting, on 29 June 2001	11 July 2001
A/AC.109/2001/26	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 8th meeting, on 29 June 2001	3 July 2001
A/AC.109/2001/27	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 9th meeting, on 2 July 2001	3 July 2001

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2001/28	Question of New Caledonia: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 10th meeting, on 3 July 2001	11 July 2001
A/AC.109/2001/29	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 10th meeting, on 3 July 2001	11 July 2001
A/AC.109/2001/30	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration: decision adopted by the Special Committee at its 10th meeting, on 3 July 2001	11 July 2001
Documents issued in the limited series		
A/AC.109/2001/L.1	Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly: note by the Secretary-General	16 February 2001
A/AC.109/2001/L.2 and Rev.1*	Organization of work: note by the Chairman	16 February 2001 19 June 2001
A/AC.109/2001/L.3	Special Committee decision of 12 July 2000 concerning Puerto Rico: report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee	16 May 2001
A/AC.109/2001/L.4	Dissemination of information on decolonization: draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman	14 June 2001
A/AC.109/2000/L.5	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman	14 June 2001
A/AC.109/2001/L.6	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman	15 June 2001
A/AC.109/2001/L.7	Special Committee decision of 12 July 2000 concerning Puerto Rico: draft resolution submitted by Cuba	18 June 2001
A/AC.109/2001/L.8	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): draft resolution submitted by Bolivia, Chile, Cuba and Venezuela	22 June 2001

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2001/L.9	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman	26 June 2001
A/AC.109/2001/L.10	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration: draft decision submitted by the Acting Chairman	26 June 2001
A/AC.109/2001/L.11	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman	26 June 2001
A/AC.109/2001/L.12	Question of Tokelau: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	26 June 2001
A/AC.109/2001/L.13	Questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands: consolidated draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	26 June 2001
A/AC.109/2001/L.14	Question of New Caledonia: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	26 June 2001
A/AC.109/2001/L.15 and Corr.1	Report of the Special Committee	29 June 2001 2 July 2001

Chapter II
Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

1. On 19 December 1991, at its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and the Plan of Action contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1). In the Plan of Action, "aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism", the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Special Committee:

> "[to] organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts."

2. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, declaring the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the Plan of Action, as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991, updated where necessary, to serve as the Plan of Action for the Second Decade. The updated plan of action is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the Second Decade (A/56/61, annex).

3. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 21 February and 12 March 2001, the Special Committee, mindful of the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and by approving the recommendation of its Chairman and the Acting Chairman on the organization of work of the Special Committee for the year (A/AC.109/2001/L.2 and Rev.1), decided to allocate to plenary meetings of the Special Committee, as appropriate, the question of the "Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism".

4. The Special Committee considered the questions of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Caribbean Regional Seminar to review the political, economic and social conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, held at Havana, Cuba, from 23 to 25 May 2001, at its 1st, 2nd and 9th meetings, on 21 February, 12 March and 2 July 2001.

5. The Special Committee had before it the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Caribbean Regional Seminar (A/AC.109/2001/1).

6. At its 3rd meeting, on 12 March, following a statement by the Chairman, the Special Committee approved the composition of the official delegation of the Special Committee to the Caribbean Regional Seminar (see A/AC.109/2001/SR.3).

7. The Special Committee also decided to invite United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of actions they had taken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000 and to submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, subject to any directives that the Assembly might give at its fifty-sixth session in that regard (see A/AC.109/2001/L.15, para. 12).

8. At the 9th meeting, on 2 July 2001, the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee drew attention to the draft report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar, which had been circulated to members of the Special Committee as a conference room paper.

9. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur of the Special Committee introduced the draft report of the Seminar, which contained a detailed account of the organization and proceedings of the Seminar (see A/AC.109/2001/SR.9).

10. At the same meeting, with the Committee's consent, Carlyle Corbin, on behalf of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, made a statement (see A/AC.109/2001/SR.9).

11. At the same meeting, following the statements made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea and Saint Lucia and the Acting Chairman in his capacity as representative of Côte d'Ivoire, the Committee decided to adopt the draft report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar, it being understood that reservations expressed by members would be reflected in the record of the meeting, and to include it as an annex to its

report to the General Assembly. The full text of the report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar is contained in the annex to the present chapter.

12. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made a statement (see A/AC.109/2001/SR.9).

Annex

Caribbean Regional Seminar to review the political, economic and social conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, held at Havana, Cuba, from 23 to 25 May 2001

Rapporteur: Fayssal **Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic)

Contents

Chapter		*Paragraphs*	*Page*
I.	Introduction	1–8	31
II.	Organization of the Seminar	9–13	32
III.	Conduct of the Seminar	14–48	33
	A. Proceedings of the Seminar	14–23	33
	B. Summary of statements and discussions	24–48	34
IV.	Conclusions and recommendations	49–51	40
Appendices			
I.	List of participants		46
II.	Statement by Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada, President of the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba		51
III.	Statement by Julian R. Hunte, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Saint Lucia, Chairman of the Special Committee		55
IV.	Statement by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee		60
V.	Message from the Secretary-General		64
VI.	Message from the President of the General Assembly		65
VII.	Resolution on expression of appreciation to the Government and people of Cuba		67

I. Introduction

1. On 22 November 1988, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, which read in part as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "...
>
> "1. *Declares* the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;
>
> "2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session a report that would enable the Assembly to consider and adopt an action plan aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism."

2. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the plan of action contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1) aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism. In the plan of action, the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,[a] their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

3. In its resolution 46/70 of 11 December 1991 on cooperation and coordination of specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in their assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories, the General Assembly stated that:

> "In addition to general problems facing developing countries, the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, many of which are small island Territories, also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as their size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, the fragility of their ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, ... weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens".

4. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, declaring the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action, as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (see para. 2 above), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second Decade. The report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61) contains an updated plan of action.

5. In its resolution 55/147 of 8 December 2000, the General Assembly approved the report of the Special Committee,[b] which inter alia called for the holding of a seminar in the Caribbean region, to be organized by the Special Committee, in 2001.

6. As stated in the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Seminar (A/AC.109/2001/1), the purpose of the Seminar was to assess the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular their constitutional evolution towards self-determination in order to facilitate the development by the Special Committee of a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Seminar would also identify areas in which the international community could increase and enhance its participation in programmes of assistance and adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to ensuring the political and sustainable socio-economic development of the Territories concerned.

7. The topics considered by the Seminar will assist the Special Committee and the participants in making an evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-

Governing Territories. The Seminar gave pre-eminence to a broad range of views of the peoples of those Territories. It also sought to secure the participation of organizations and institutions that are actively involved in the political, economic and social development of those Territories and of selected non-governmental organizations with long and established experience in island Territories.

8. The contributions of the participants served as a basis for the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar, which will be carefully studied by the Special Committee with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

II. Organization of the Seminar

9. The Seminar was held at Havana from 23 to 25 May 2001.

10. The Seminar held six meetings in which States Members of the United Nations, representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers, non-governmental organizations, regional organizations and experts took part. The list of participants is given in annex I. The seminar was organized to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

11. The Seminar was conducted by Julian R. Hunte, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Saint Lucia and Chairman of the Special Committee, with the participation of the following members of the Special Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba (host country), Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Saint Lucia, Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela. France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland participated in the Seminar in their capacity as administering Powers. The following States Members of the United Nations also participated in the Seminar: Angola, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Spain, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

12. At the 1st meeting, on 23 May 2001, the following members of the Special Committee were appointed officers of the Seminar: Patrick Albert Lewis (Antigua and Barbuda), Bernard Tanoh-Boutchoué (Côte d'Ivoire) and Dupito Simamora (Indonesia) as Vice-Chairmen, Fayssal Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic) as Rapporteur and Chairman of the Drafting Group. The Drafting Group was composed of the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Saint Lucia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela.

13. The agenda of the Seminar was as follows:

1. Strategies for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:
   (a) Assessment of the level of implementation of the plan of action during the first International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;
   (b) Developing strategies for the Second International Decade to promote the implementation of the plan of action and the relevant United Nations resolutions by the United Nations system, Member States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.
2. Role of the Special Committee in facilitating the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories:
   (a) Analysis of criteria or indicators of self-government in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions;
   (b) Developing political education programmes in the Territories to foster awareness among the peoples of the political status options available to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV);
   (c) Strengthening cooperation with administering Powers;
   (d) Importance of visiting missions to the Territories;
   (e) Importance of the dissemination of information on the process of

decolonization and on the role of the United Nations to the populations of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

3. Development strategies for strengthening assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the United Nations system:

   (a) Assessment of existing mandates for the provision of assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and United Nations programmes;

   (b) Developing strategies to improve and increase the level of assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and United Nations programmes.

4. Recent political, economic and social developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular in those in the Caribbean region:

   (a) Political and constitutional developments;

   (b) Economic and social situation;

   (c) Steps necessary for the achievement of self-determination in the Territories in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV);

   (d) Views of the participants on the use of military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the impact of military activities on the environment, economic development and health of the population.

5. Socio-economic conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and their effect on decolonization:

   (a) Impact of globalization; participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the global economy, including the impact of international developments on the financial services sector of the Territories;

   (b) Effects of migration to and from the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

   (c) Rights of indigenous peoples;

   (d) Land issues;

   (e) Protection of the right of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to ownership, control and disposal of their natural wealth and resources, including marine resources pursuant to resolutions of the General Assembly, the Convention on the Law of the Sea and other international conventions;

   (f) Environmental and climate issues, including the impact of natural disasters and the need for disaster preparedness.

III. Conduct of the Seminar

A. Proceedings of the Seminar

14. On 23 May, Julian R. Hunte (Saint Lucia) opened the Seminar in his capacity as Chairman of the Seminar.

15. President of the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba, Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada, addressed the Seminar. His statement is reproduced in annex II.

16. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Special Committee made an opening statement in the course of which he referred to the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights established by the General Assembly in its resolution 2911 (XXVII) of 2 November 1972 (see annex III).

17. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur of the Special Committee made a statement in the course of which he briefed the participants on the Committee's work since the previous seminar, held in Majuro, Marshall Islands from 16 to 18 May 2001 (see annex IV).

18. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Decolonization Unit, Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, read out a message from the Secretary-General (see annex V).

19. At the same meeting, Patrick Albert Lewis (Antigua and Barbuda) read out a message from the President of the General Assembly (see annex VI).

20. In view of the fact that the Seminar was taking place during the Week of Solidarity with Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights, some speakers made references to the Week of Solidarity.

21. At its 6th meeting, on 25 May, the Seminar heard a statement by Abelardo Moreno, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba.

22. At the same meeting, the Chairman made a concluding statement.

23. At the same meeting, the participants adopted by acclamation a resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and people of Cuba (see annex VII).

B. Summary of statements and discussions

Member States

24. The representative of Antigua and Barbuda stated that his country had played its part in focusing regional and international attention on the issues of self-determination and decolonization of the remaining small island Non-Self-Governing Territories through its active role as a member of the Special Committee. He emphasized that most Non-Self-Governing Territories were associate members or observers in regional institutions such as the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, and others. Through collective Caribbean effort, with the strong support of the Pacific Islands Forum member States, these Territories had been granted observer status in the special session of the General Assembly on small islands, and on population, and provisions had been made for them to participate in the upcoming special sessions on the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and on children, and in the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. However, the level of implementation of the plan of action for the first International Decade was less than desirable, with major provisions not addressed, and priority actions such as the creation of political education to heighten the awareness of the people of the Territories, as well as visits to each of the Territories by the Secretary-General or his Special Representative, never having materialized; the two critical analyses of the constitutional, political and economic development of the Territories were never attempted, owing, reportedly, to a lack of both human and financial resources. In conclusion, he urged "unique remedies" consistent with international principles of political equality, and within the maximum possible participation of the representatives of the territories, to complete the work of the United Nations in decolonization.

25. The representative of Argentina stated that the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) differed from traditional colonial cases and constituted a special and particular form of colonialism that affected the territorial integrity of the Argentine Republic. He recalled that resolutions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on Decolonization noted the existence of a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the Territory which should be solved through bilateral negotiations, bearing in mind the interests of the population of the Islands. He stressed the position of his Government that the existence of the sovereignty dispute ruled out the applicability of the right to self-determination, since it would be unacceptable for British citizens residing in the Territory to decide over a dispute to which their country is a party. He also stated that Argentina had repeatedly expressed its determination to resume negotiations with the United Kingdom and to respect the way of life and interests of the inhabitants of the Islands. He reiterated his Government's disposition to discuss all schemes that could lead to a final solution of the sovereignty dispute.

26. The representative of Morocco stated that the Sahara issue was not a question of decolonization but rather of the accomplishment of territorial integrity. The referendum initiated by Morocco in 1982 could not be organized because the other party had waged, since the beginning of the Settlement Plan, a campaign against the identification of the Saharans who were not in the Territory at the time of the Spanish census in 1974. Furthermore, it violated the Houston Agreements brokered by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Mr. James Baker, and rejected the right to appeal of 139,000 candidates for registration, opposed the return of refugees and the updating of the list of candidates who had reached the age of 18 and were entitled to vote and refused to release the prisoners of war. On the last point, the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on 24 April 2001

stressed the dramatic humanitarian and human rights issue of 1,481 Moroccan prisoners of war for more than 20 years, which must be addressed on an urgent basis (see S/2001/398, para. 9). He also recalled that, when the Representative of the Secretary-General realized the impossibility of reaching concrete solutions to the logical and objective questions raised by Morocco, the Secretary-General recommend efforts to seek a political solution. His recommendation was endorsed by the Security Council in its resolutions 1324 (2000) and 1342 (2001), in which the Council asked the two parties to "try to agree upon a mutually acceptable political solution to their dispute over Western Sahara". The Council reiterated its call on the same terms in its resolution 1349 (2001) of 27 April 2001. Following the adoption of those resolutions and in response to the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, Morocco made concrete proposals which took into consideration its highest interests, its national unity, its territorial integrity and its sovereignty, while respecting regional specificities and international norms. Those proposals had been characterized by the recent report of the Secretary-General as substantial progress. Finally, he stated that, by expressing its support for the political solution, Morocco aspired to reach a lasting, just and equitable solution to the problems of the Sahara. To that prospect he reiterated the willingness of his country to continue to cooperate fully with the Security Council, the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy.

27. The representative of Spain reiterated the position of his Government that any solution to the question of Gibraltar should be based upon the principle of territorial integrity in accordance with an unequivocal and well-established doctrine of the United Nations. He reaffirmed the commitment of his Government to the Brussels process and the continuation of the Anglo-Spanish talks regarding Gibraltar aimed at the restoration of Spanish sovereignty over the Territory. He stated that Spain was prepared to take into account all legitimate interests of the territorial population in a definitive negotiated solution to the question of Gibraltar.

28. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic stated that the cause of decolonization was a noble cause. Moreover, he emphasized that special attention should be given to the small Territories. The majority of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were small islands that confronted unique problems arising from their small size and populations, their limited natural resources and their vulnerability to natural disasters. In considering the question of economic and other activities that affected the interests of peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, he reaffirmed, among other things, the right of peoples of the Territories to enjoy their natural resources and to dispose of them in their best interest, as well as the need to avoid any activities which adversely affected those interests. Furthermore, he reaffirmed the conviction that military bases and installations in the Territories concerned constituted an obstacle to the exercise by the peoples of those Territories of their right to self-determination. He urged the administering Powers not to involve the Territories in any acts against other States. He welcomed the cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers. Finally, he emphasized that one of the remaining vestiges of colonialism was settler colonialism, adopted by the Zionist ideology and exercised by Israel through its aggression and expansion in the occupied Arab territories as well as through the expulsion of the Arab inhabitants, coupled with the brutal killing of Arabs and fasting them to death. One of the main objectives of such a policy was the intensification of the building of settler colonies. Those criminal actions represented grave violations of international law, international humanitarian law, relevant United Nations resolutions, international legitimacy and human rights. He confirmed that they were war crimes and crimes against humanity.

29. The representative of the United Kingdom stated that the United Kingdom welcomed the efforts by the Committee, begun under the constructive leadership of Peter Donigi, to pursue dialogue with the administering Powers with a view to ascertaining the wishes of the peoples of the Territories, with a view to the possible future removal of the Territories from the Committee's list. It asked the Committee to consider all the options available for self-determination. The United Kingdom's relationship with the Overseas Territories continued to be based on the principles of self-determination, mutual obligations, freedom for the Territories to run their affairs to the greatest degree possible and commitment from the United Kingdom to help the Territories economically and assist them in emergencies. The United Kingdom considered its relationship with the Overseas Territories a partnership and worked to maximize the opportunities for self-government. It fully respected the unique circumstances in each Territory. The United Kingdom's

policy towards the Overseas Territories rested on the basis that the citizens of each Territory determined whether they wished to stay linked to the United Kingdom or not. The United Kingdom had no intention of imposing independence against their will, but if independence was asked for, and where it was an option, it would not stand in any Territory's way. The United Kingdom remained firmly committed to the right to self-determination. This was applicable to all its Territories, including the Falkland Islands (and Gibraltar).

30. The representative of Venezuela stated that the points of view expressed during the Seminar provided an important reference for the Special Committee since they represented a key source of up-to-date knowledge and information that demonstrated the close relationship between the political, economic and social variables in every territory under consideration. The decolonization process was not a race against time although it was, of course, necessary to speed up the final elimination of that historical and political problem in accordance with the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly. It was urgent to improve and consolidate mechanisms to promote constructive dialogue between the parties concerned and to ensure the closest possible cooperation with the Committee, particularly on the part of the administering Powers, for that was a condition for the effectiveness of the Committee's work. Lastly, he said that since the beginning of the process, Venezuela had supported unconditionally the international community's goal of completely eradicating all forms and manifestations of colonialism throughout the world and he reiterated that it was willing to make the best possible contribution to achieve that objective, all the more so in that many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were located in the Caribbean and Atlantic region, where great efforts were being made to promote better, more effective and closer regional solidarity in order to increase the well-being of its peoples.

Representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

31. The representatives of American Samoa, while supporting the noble goal of the Special Committee to eradicate colonialism, reiterated their request to the Special Committee to have the Territory removed from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the Committee was concerned and stated that American Samoa wanted to remain a Territory of the United States of America. They provided information on the current socio-economic situation in American Samoa and its high living standards in comparison with other independent States and Territories in the Pacific region. They also expressed concern that leaders of the Territory were not consulted by the administering Power in the course of informal consultations with the Special Committee on the case-by-case programmes for the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

32. The representative of Gibraltar stated that, since in the process of decolonization there was no alternative to the principle of self-determination, as enunciated in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), it applied to the decolonization of all Territories on the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. No dialogue should take place about a problem affecting a Non-Self-Governing Territory between the administering Power and any other Member without the presence and participation, with a separate voice, of the Government of that Territory.

33. The representative of Guam stated that he hoped discussions on Guam — like those on American Samoa — would begin soon. He reiterated that, in the process of decolonization, the attainment of self-government was critical and that there was no substitute for the views of the people of the Territories in that process. The representative also pointed out that Guamians were Americans and generally viewed their citizenship — and the administering Power's military — as an integral part of their lives. He also noted the significant decline in the economic impact of the military and noted that, even while the attainment of self-government was the long-term goal, the daily impact of the relationship also had to be examined. The Government urged the Special Committee to keep the playing field level in the decolonization process and for its support in amendments to the language in the recent resolutions on Guam.

34. The representative of Montserrat stated that, after 40 years Montserrat remained a colony with little or no input from the administering Power in relationship to the establishment of a viable social, political and economic environment that would allow Montserratians to become a self-determined people. Of the three options available to the colonies, two — full self-government and associated statehood — had been eliminated from the administering Power's options.

The third option, integration into an established State, was now, in his opinion, being manufactured by the administering Power. It was being done through the 1996 British White Paper declaration and the White Paper entitled "A Partnership for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories" (A/AC.109/1991/1, annex). Neither changed the intrinsic relationship of the colony with the administering Power. The Government of Montserrat wished to go on record as stating that neither the White Paper nor the Partnership for Progress changed the master/servant relationship. As such, they could not be used as a reason for delisting the Territory. He stated that the people of Montserrat had no desire to be delisted until they became a fully self-governing people.

35. The representative of the Government of New Caledonia stressed the value of participating in the meetings of the Special Committee in order to better understand how the United Nations dealt with the case of that territory and to give the Committee a better grasp of the changing political, economic and social situation. Three years after the signing of the Nouméa Accord (A/AC.109/2114, annex) and two years after establishment of the new institutions, a new phase had begun with the election of a new Government which included a Vice-President who was a member of the *Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste* (FLNKS). The transfer of powers under the Nouméa Accord had been completed and the French Government was fully involved in the ongoing process. Major prospects for economic development had materialized, particularly in the nickel industry. The upcoming meeting of the group ... in Nouméa was proof of New Caledonia's excellent integration into its regional environment. Thus, the necessary conditions for successful continuation of the emancipation process appeared to be in place.

36. The representative of FLNKS of New Caledonia recalled that 1998 had been the pivotal year in the political and institutional history of New Caledonia, with the signing of the Nouméa Accord by FLNKS, the *Rassemblement pour la Calédonie dans la République* (RPCR) and the French State. Pursuant to the Accord, the Kanaks and the other communities assumed responsibility for their "shared destiny" on the basis of the rehabilitation of the colonized indigenous Kanak people; the foundations for "wanting to live with one another" (citizenship, identity signs specific to New Caledonia); and a gradual and irreversible power to transfer responsibilities towards full sovereignty. The representative of FLNKS highlighted the problems encountered in the implementation of the Nouméa Accord, adding that the principle of collegiality had been spurned by both RPCR and the French State. There were obstacles and delays in implementing the fundamental contents of the Nouméa Accord concerning the adoption of measures to protect local employment; rectification of the interpretations made by the French constitutional judge on the electorate for elections to Congress; the adoption of identity signs; real progress towards a new economic balance and the modernization of the taxation system. Despite those difficulties, FLNKS noted the assurance of RCPR to return to a new political balance with FLNKS and its clearly expressed commitment to equal treatment for the northern and the southern Provinces. According to FLNKS, France, as the holder of political sovereignty over the Kanak land, must not stand in the way of progress towards political emancipation through manoeuvres designed to introduce a neocolonial situation. FLNKS would remain vigilant in respect to the fair appreciation of the Nouméa Accord and true to its commitment to independence for the country.

37. The representative of the United States Virgin Islands stated that assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories from United Nations organizations was one of the most important agenda items addressed by the Special Committee. The legislative mandate provided by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council had not resulted in sufficient implementation of such programmes of assistance, and a mechanism needed to be devised for the wider United Nations system to implement that mandate. While the United Nations Department of Political Affairs performed admirably in the political arena, coordination of assistance to the Territories was best carried out by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the regional commissions. Associate membership in the United Nations regional commissions and specialized agencies was critical to the socio-economic development of the Territories, as was continued observer status in United Nations world conferences and special sessions of the General Assembly.

38. The representative of the *Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro* (Frente POLISARIO) stated that the Special Committee had had the question of Western Sahara on

its agenda since the 1970s as a decolonization issue and that it would remain the primary body responsible for the decolonization of Western Sahara until the Sahrawi people exercised their legitimate right to self-determination and independence. After 16 years of war, the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had jointly proposed a settlement plan designed to resolve the conflict in a peaceful manner through the holding of a referendum on the self-determination of the Sahrawi people. In February 2000, after laborious effort, the United Nations Identification Commission had published a provisional list of 86,386 voters. Despite progress towards the holding of the referendum, Morocco continued to hinder implementation of the United Nations peace plan by seeking to free itself from the commitments and agreements it has entered into in Houston. This Moroccan position and the encouragement offered by France did not augur well for the region. The Sahrawi people would give peace every possible chance, but in no way could it jeopardize its legitimate right to self-determination and independence. The Frente POLISARIO solemnly reaffirmed that the Sahrawi people would spare no effort and would use every legitimate means to defend its right to free self-determination and independence. It greatly appreciated the Special Committee's continued interest in the decolonization of Western Sahara and hoped that, in keeping with its mandate, the Special Committee would pursue its noble mission until the last African colony was decolonized. In that regard, it wished to maintain the text of the previous year's resolution without any change whatsoever.

Non-governmental organizations

39. A representative of a non-governmental organization from the United States stated that there could be no compromise on the question of decolonization for it was destroying peoples' ability to control their physical, mental and spiritual development. The United Nations Special Committee on decolonization was entrusted with the awesome task of leading the world's Non-Self-Governing Territories to independence and self-determination and the rewarding opportunity to influence the larger body in ensuring that they entered a world free of all forms of oppression.

40. A representative of a non-governmental organization from Puerto Rico raised the issue of United States military manoeuvres and live bombing on the inhabited island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, and demanded termination of all military activities in Puerto Rico.

41. A representative of the Guam Commission on Decolonization (Guam) stated that the situation in most of the remaining territories was such that they were no closer to self-government than they had been when the Committee was established, or since the ratification of the Charter. Although the situation was largely the result of the inaction of administering Powers, he suggested that the United Nations might do more to accelerate the process. He provided an overview of the legal processes undertaken by the Government of Guam with respect to soliciting the views of the colonized people of Guam regarding their preferred self-governing status. More might be done to accelerate the decolonization process by refocusing the Special Committee's work and finding new ways to encourage administering Powers to cooperate with the process of granting self-government to colonial countries and peoples. The "cross-pollination" of issues, such as self-determination, between the Special Committee and the Fourth Committee and the Third Committee would bring a greater awareness among Member States of the problems confronted by the remaining Territories. Similarly, a more pronounced role for the Secretary-General in reviewing the actions of administering Powers consistent with the Charter and General Assembly resolutions, as well as international law, customs and conventions, was suggested as a way to encourage administering Power accountability with respect to the responsibilities they assumed vis-à-vis Non-Self-Governing Territories. A process for soliciting the views of the colonized people of Guam with respect to their preferred self-governing status (consistent with the options outlined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV)) was also highlighted. It was pointed out that the process was one defined by Guam law and that the continued encouragement of Member States for the administering Power's cooperation was welcomed.

42. A representative of a non-governmental organization from Guam stated that the taking and retention of one third of the land on Guam without adequate and timely compensation by the administering Power for military purposes was obstructing the social and economic development of the Chamorro people. Existing policies continued to impede the unrestricted

return of the lands to the original landowners. In an effort to mitigate the situation, the Government of Guam had implemented the Chamorro Land Trust programme. However, proportional to the rate of immigration and in-migration, there is an increasing demand by non-Chamorros that the programme be extended to all persons in Guam. That situation was exacerbated by the imposition of laws of the administering Power, which depicted the programme as discriminatory. The presenter requested the Special Committee to recommend that the 2001 General Assembly resolution call upon the administering Power to realistically re-evaluate its land holding and facilitate the unrestricted return of unused lands to Guam for inclusion in programmes beneficial to original Chamorro landowners; recognize and sanction the Chamorro Land Trust programme for native Chamorros of Guam; discontinue immigration policies and practices which impact the demographics of the Territory; facilitate the legitimate exercise of self-determination by the indigenous Chamorro people of Guam.

43. A representative of a non-governmental organization from the United States Virgin Islands stated that the foremost obstacle to the decolonization of the United States Virgin Islands was the lack of understanding within the population of the fact that the Territory has a status in international law and that the United Nations has a recognized role to play with regard to the status of the Territory. During the educational campaign in the 1990s leading to a status referendum, the elected territorial officials who took a position on the highly charged issue of who should be able to vote in the referendum insisted that only United States law and the United States Constitution applied to the issue, and to any other issues concerning political status. The high position of the politicians minimized those voices who attempted to disseminate accurate information and no authoritative explanation could be obtained from the Special Committee. As less than 28 per cent of the electorate participated in the referendum, there was no binding or valid result, and the population has turned from the issue of political status as too complex and divisive. Because of the wide dissemination of the disinformation, the United States Virgin Islands was no further from understanding its right to self-determination and the legitimate options open to it than had been true in 1990.

44. A number of non-governmental organizations from Cuba provided their perspectives on the decolonization process in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions and various economic, political, social and legal aspects of the developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as in Puerto Rico within the context of Special Committee decision of 12 July 2000 concerning Puerto Rico (see A/55/23 (Part I), para. 39).

Regional organizations

45. The representative of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) presented the organization as a regional, intergovernmental organization for cooperation, consultation and concerted action in the areas of trade, transport, sustainable tourism and natural disasters. He explained that the Convention establishing ACS provided for associate membership for all the Caribbean Territories on the list to which the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was applicable, stressing that independence or self-governance were not prerequisites for entry into the Association. In that respect, the ACS representative invited the Special Committee to note, in the context of the development of strategies to lend support to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, that ACS would welcome the participation of the Caribbean non-independent Territories, as associate members, in the functional cooperation activities of the Association, and was renewing efforts to that end.

Experts

46. Experts presented papers dealing with questions and issues proposed by the Special Committee, as reflected above. The experts discussed in detail the political, economic and social development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, with particular emphasis on the conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region. The experts maintained that the struggle for self-determination and the control over their own destiny was embedded in the history and development of the Territories. They pointed out that the fear of small size, lack of economic viability and perceived failures of neighbours who had embarked on independence were barriers to more concerted additional moves to realize full self-governance or self-determination. The underlying basis for that fear was the lack of knowledge or awareness of

the options in the self-determination process. Refusal by the administering Power to cooperate with or participate in the work of the Special Committee and the prevention of local government representatives from participating in the Committee's work further complicated the matter, placing the Committee and its work in a negative light. In addition, interested local representatives might shy away from association with the Committee for fear of "offending" the administering Power. Experts pointed out that Anguilla and most of the other dependent Territories were embarking on constitutional reviews. The powers of the British governors and the question of independence were issues that would be addressed in that process.

Observers

47. The observers shared their viewpoints on the role of the Special Committee in the eradication of colonialism and provided information for the members of the Special Committee on various aspects of the questions of Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations

48. The representative of UNDP stated that programmes of technical cooperation were maintained by UNDP with five British Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean, all of which were currently classified as net contributor countries. They were: Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The programmes varied in content but were all implemented in keeping with UNDP programming and operational rules, including through emphasis on the national executive modality. In addition to their target for resource assignment from the core (TRAC) allocations, some of the Territories benefited from the Caribbean component of the UNDP Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean. In particular, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands currently benefited from the expanded, ongoing regional disaster response and management project for the Caribbean. Additional benefits were derived by the Turks and Caicos Islands under the merged support for policy and programme development and support for technical services funding frameworks. In addition, given its membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Montserrat will continue to benefit from assistance channelled to the Caribbean multi-island programme. Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands will also continue to receive such benefits on the basis of their associate status with OECS. The Caribbean component of the UNDP Regional Cooperation Framework for Latin America and the Caribbean for the period 2001-2005, which was currently being finalized, would place heavy emphasis, inter alia, on poverty reduction, the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and information and communications technologies for development.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

49. At its 6th meeting, held on 25 May 2001, the Seminar adopted the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. The Seminar welcomes the proclamation by the General Assembly of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and stresses that the Second International Decade is an important political framework for continued efforts in support of the process of decolonization and the role of the United Nations in such a process.

2. As activities of the International Decade, the regional seminars serve as an effective forum for focused discussion on matters of concern to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and afford opportunities for representatives of the peoples of the Territories to present their views and recommendations to the Special Committee.

3. The participants called for the full implementation of the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

4. The implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) is not complete as long as there remain Non-Self-Governing Territories that have yet to exercise their right to self-determination.

5. In this process of decolonization, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right. All available options for self-determination are valid as long as they

are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations, and as enunciated in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions.

6. Any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

7. In the current stage of global development, there is still a need for identifying and implementing innovative practical and pragmatic approaches in the search for a specific solution for each of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the populations concerned and in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

8. The United Nations has a valid ongoing role in the process of decolonization. The mandate of the Special Committee is a major political programme of the United Nations.

9. As long as the administering Powers exercise unilateral authority to make laws and other regulations affecting the Non-Self-Governing Territories without their consent, pursuant to such methods as legislation, orders in council and other methods, a Territory should not be considered self-governing.

10. The Special Committee should continue to actively participate in monitoring and observing the evolution of the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards self-determination, as well as to certify to the General Assembly the compliance of this process with the norms and practices of the United Nations.

11. Specific characteristics of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories should in no way prevent their populations from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV).

12. The views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in respect to their right to self-determination should be ascertained under the supervision of the United Nations.

13. Noting the need for more information to be submitted to the United Nations under Article 73*e*, the Seminar called for the continued use of the comprehensive questionnaire detailing the specific areas of economic, social and political development on which information should be furnished.

14. Continued examination of the spectrum of options of self-determination by all parties concerned and dissemination of relevant information among the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories are important elements in achieving the goals of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the plan of action.

15. The participants affirmed the need for the Special Committee to actively embark on a public awareness campaign aimed at getting the peoples in the Territories to gain an understanding of the options for self-determination included in the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization.

16. The participants supported closer cooperation between the Special Committee and the Economic and Social Council in order to promote increased United Nations assistance in the economic and social sphere to the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

17. Subject to approval by the Economic and Social Council, Non-Self-Governing Territories should be given access to relevant United Nations programmes in the economic and social sphere, including those emanating from the plans of action of United Nations world conferences, in furtherance of capacity-building and consistent with necessary preparation for the attainment of a full measure of internal self-government.

18. The Special Committee should adopt the report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar and include it in its report to the General Assembly, as it did with the report of the Pacific Regional Seminar in 2000.

19. The participants recognize the vulnerability of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, which require special consideration and remedies.

20. The regional nature of the seminars, alternating between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in their success. The administering Powers should be urged to facilitate the participation of the elected representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the seminars and sessions of the Special

Committee and the Fourth Committee in conformity with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

21. While the international community must remain flexible in its approach to assisting the Non-Self-Governing Territories in their constitutional advancement, efforts should be made to guarantee their advancement in conformity with the acceptable choices contained in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV).

22. All efforts should be made by Member States, when presenting draft resolutions on decolonization to the General Assembly, to take into account the views, as appropriate, of the people of the Territories concerned.

23. The participants emphasized the desirability of holding future seminars in the Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to educating the respective peoples in those Territories regarding the aims and objectives of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Furthermore, they emphasized that such seminars would reflect in more precise ways the feelings and aspirations of the peoples of those Territories. The administering Powers are called upon to facilitate the holding of future seminars in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

24. The participants confirmed the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories with the aim of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status and called on the administering Powers to cooperate in facilitating such visiting missions.

25. The participants expressed the view that, as long as there are Non-Self-Governing Territories, the inalienable rights of the peoples of those Territories must be guaranteed by the United Nations and the Special Committee in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV).

26. The participants welcomed the establishment of a decolonization web page and requested the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat update the web page regularly and to use that tool to intensify the dissemination of information on the activities of the United Nations in decolonization, with a view to raising the awareness of the people about their political rights and the options available to them in determining their political status. The Department of Public Information should use all means of communication, including radio, television and publications to promote the cause of decolonization.

27. The participants recall paragraph 22 of the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism to the effect that the Special Committee should: (a) prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory; and (b) review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories; and the necessary resources should be made available, if so required, for the conduct of such studies and reviews.

28. United Nations information centres should be directed to disseminate information on decolonization to the Territories and to the administering Powers.

29. The informal negotiations between the Special Committee and the administering Powers to create a work programme on a case-by-case basis for the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories should be expedited with the active involvement of the representatives of the Territories, and other interested parties, where appropriate.

30. The Seminar urges the Special Committee to initiate action to implement the programme of work it prepared regarding the situation in the Territories and thus take a further step forward in implementing its mandate. It urges the administering Powers to cooperate with the Special Committee in such an endeavour.

31. The participants note that, in the development of work programmes for individual Territories, the participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in which there is no dispute over sovereignty should be ensured. They also point out that any work programme should include an information and education campaign for the peoples of the said Territories, visiting missions of the Special Committee to ascertain the situation in those Territories first-hand, and a consultation process acceptable to the peoples in those Territories leading to the exercise of

their right to self-determination in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

32. The Seminar takes note of the initiation of discussions between the Special Committee and the administering Powers of American Samoa and Pitcairn with a view to developing work programmes for the Territories with the participation and agreement of the representatives of the peoples of those Territories.

33. The participants take note of the statements made by the Governor of American Samoa and by the representative of American Samoa in the United States Congress. The participants urge the Special Committee to expedite plans to examine the case of American Samoa to further the programme of work in consultations with the administering Power. They reaffirm the need for the Special Committee to conduct urgent contacts with the Governor, the President of the Senate and Senators, the Speaker of the House and representatives of the Legislature, and the Congressman and other community leaders and other representatives of the Territory and the administering Power with the aim of implementing the positions adopted by the Special Committee in compliance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

34. The Seminar supports the current participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant regional commissions of the United Nations and in specialized agencies of the United Nations and call for increased involvement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in programmes and activities of the United Nations system in furtherance of the decolonization process subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions and decisions on specific Territories.

35. The participants encourage the United Nations to assist those Non-Self-Governing Territories which are granted observer status in the United Nations world conferences and special sessions of the General Assembly by facilitating the dissemination of information to those Territories regarding the respective sessions.

36. The participants request those Member States of the Special Committee that are members of the Economic and Social Council to support the inclusion of those Non-Self-Governing Territories which are associate members of United Nations regional commissions as observers in the Council pursuant to the relevant resolution of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council.

37. The participants express concern over the military installations and activities of the administering Powers in Non-Self-Governing Territories, which run counter to the rights and interests of the people concerned and which create serious health and environmental hazards and request the Special Committee to address this issue in an appropriate manner, including calling for the removal of such installations. In addition, the participants propose the provision of alternative sources of livelihood for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

38. The Special Committee should continue to encourage the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom, with the aim of finding a solution to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and taking into consideration the interests of the population of the Territory, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

39. The Special Committee should continue to encourage the ongoing negotiations between the Governments of the United Kingdom and Spain within the Brussels process, aimed at achieving a solution to the question of Gibraltar in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

40. The Seminar, while recognizing the significant developments that have taken place in New Caledonia, mainly the signing of the Nouméa Accord on 5 May 1998 between representatives of the political forces of New Caledonia and the Government of France, takes the view that the United Nations should continue to watch closely and keep under review the process unfolding in the Territory. The Seminar has considered the different points of view expressed by the participants about compliance with the provisions of the Accord and urges the concerned parties to implement the provisions of the Accord in a spirit of harmony and cooperation. The Seminar recalls the visit to New Caledonia by a delegation of representatives to the United Nations in 1999 and recommends that those

missions visit the Territory regularly during the transition period.

41. The Seminar also notes the need to ensure that all parties to the Nouméa Accord are represented at future Seminars and activities organized by the Special Committee.

42. The participants recommend that the Special Committee call upon the United States as the administering Power to work with Guam's Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination with a view to facilitating the decolonization of Guam and to keep the Secretary-General informed of progress to that end.

43. The Special Committee should request the administering Power for Guam, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the original landowners of the Territory. The Special Committee should also request the administering Power to promote the Government of Guam's Chamorro Land Trust Commission programmes for the Chamorro people.

44. The United Nations should further request the administering Power for Guam to continue to recognize and respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam, and to take all necessary measures to respond to the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the immigration issue.

45. The Seminar called upon the administering Power to cooperate with the Government of Guam to develop and promote political education for the indigenous people of Guam, the Chamorros, on their right to self-determination.

46. The participants call upon the Special Committee to engage the administering Power and the representatives of the Territory with a view to developing a specific work programme for Guam.

47. The Seminar notes with satisfaction the positive constitutional developments that have occurred in the Territory of Tokelau. The relationship between Tokelau and its administering Power, New Zealand, has been conducive to the increased level of internal self-government and the enactment of territorial legislation, bringing the people of Tokelau closer to the exercise of the right to self-determination.

48. The Seminar also notes with satisfaction the substantial work being carried out by Tokelau to put in place a governance structure, the Modern House of Tokelau project, that will enable Tokelau to maintain its unique identity and respond to the contemporary challenges of the new century. It acknowledged the collaborative basis on which this project was being undertaken with the administering Power.

49. With regard to Western Sahara, the Seminar urges the two parties to continue, under the auspices of the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, to try to resolve the multiple problems relating to the implementation of the Settlement Plan and try to agree upon a mutually acceptable political solution to their dispute over Western Sahara.

50. The participants are aware that Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, has been used for over fifty years by the United States Navy to carry out military manoeuvres, thus limiting access by the civilian population to a space scarcely a quarter of the island, and having an impact on the health of the population, the environment and the economic and the social development of the Territory.

51. The participants encourage the Government of the United States, in line with the need to guarantee to the Puerto Rican people their legitimate right to self-determination and the protection of their human rights, to order the halt of its armed forces' military drills and manoeuvres on Vieques Island, which is inhabited, return the occupied land to the people of Puerto Rico, halt the persecution, arrests, incarceration and harassment of hundreds of peaceful demonstrators, respect fundamental human rights, such as the right to health and economic development, and decontaminate impact areas.

52. The Special Committee should note with satisfaction the cooperation of France and New Zealand in the process of decolonization and welcome their presence at Special Committee meetings. The participants reiterate their call upon other administering Powers to engage the Special Committee in constructive dialogue in future.

53. The participants welcome the presence as an observer at the Seminar, for the first time, of the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. They also welcome the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom regarding

its intention to continue to engage with the Special Committee, with a view to enhancing cooperation.

54. The Special Committee should express its appreciation to Angola, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Spain, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam for their active participation in the Seminar and encourage other Member States to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee.

55. The Seminar reiterates the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted at the previous regional seminars held in Vanuatu (1990) and Barbados (1990), Grenada (1992), Papua New Guinea (1993 and 1996), Trinidad and Tobago (1995), Antigua and Barbuda (1997), Fiji (1998), Saint Lucia (1999) and the Marshall Islands (2000).

50. At the same meeting, a representative of Gibraltar disassociated himself from paragraphs 22, 29, 31 and 39 of the conclusions and recommendations. The representatives of Chile and the United Kingdom expressed reservations with regard to paragraphs 50 and 51.

51. At the same meeting, the participants adopted a resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and people of Cuba.

Notes

[a] At present the list of Territories with which the Special Committee is concerned and to which the Declaration is applicable includes American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, East Timor, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands, and Western Sahara.

[b] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/55/23), chap. II.

Appendix I

List of participants

Official delegation of the Special Committee

Saint Lucia	Julian R. Hunte Chairman of the Special Committee
Antigua and Barbuda	Patrick Albert Lewis Member of the Special Committee
Congo	Luc Joseph Okio Ngamokouba Xavier Member of the Special Committee
Côte d'Ivoire	Bernard Tanoh-Boutchoué Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee
Ethiopia	Fesseha A. Tessema Member of the Special Committee
Fiji	Amraiya Naidu Member of the Special Committee
Indonesia	Dupito Simamora Belian Napitupilu Member of the Special Committee
Syrian Arab Republic	Fayssal Mekdad Rapporteur of the Special Committee
Venezuela	Julio Montes Prado Domingo Blanco-Gutierrez Olga Fonseca Member of the Special Committee

States Members of the United Nations

Angola	Joao Manuel Bernardo
Argentina	José Maria Aller José Porretti Mateo Estremé
Benin	H.E. Georges N. Timanty Germaom Agossadou
Brazil	Paulo E. R. Ribeiro
Cambodia	Monh Seam Leng
Chile*	Cristian Streeter
China*	Cai Runguo

* Member of the Special Committee.

Cuba* (host country)	Abelardo Moreno Juan Antonio Fernández Yamira Cueto García Mirtha Granda Averhoff Oscar León González Pedro Fanego Sea Aramís Fuentes Hernández Dagoberto Rodríguez Barrera Rodney López Clemente Aymeé Herenández Quesada Rene Mesa Garcia Ricardo Garcia Napoles Aracelys Herrero Esther Armenteros Orlando Requeijo Alberto Vedlazco
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Ryong Te Sik
Dominica	Clarkson J. Thomas
Germany	Bernd Wulffen
Guatemala	Hugo René Guzmán Maldonado Irma Veronica Arajuo
Guyana	Timothy Crichlow
Haiti	William Exanius Frantz Dorsaintville
India*	Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha
Iran (Islamic Republic of)*	Seyed Davood Mohseni Monfared
Japan	Kenya Uno
Lebanon	Sleiman C. Rassi
Mexico	Ricardo Pascoe Pierce Xochitl Rodríguez Rafael Ortiz Lavinia Gluyas Millán
Morocco	Hilale Omar Hassana Maoulainine Abderrahman Leibek
Namibia	Ben Maramata
Nigeria	Edward Osunmakinde
Peru	Edgard Perez
Philippines	Wenceslao J. O. Quirologico Dexter G. Macaraeg

Saint Lucia*	Anthony Darius Michelle Joseph Frances Michel
Spain	Javier Perez Griffo
Sri Lanka	Jayantha Dissanayake
Syrian Arab Republic*	Clovis Khoury
Viet Nam	Le Huu Toan

Administering Powers

France	David Levy Nadia Seghier
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Assuntina Falzarano

Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories

American Samoa	Tauese Sunia Eni Faleomavaega Tenari Fuimaono Raymond McMoore
Gibraltar	Peter Caruana Ernesto Montado Perry Stieglitz
Guam	Carl Gutierrez Francisco Jesus Salas
New Caledonia	Maurice Ponga Roch Wamytan (FLNKS) Bernard Deladrière *FLNKS* Paul Neaoutyine Matcha Iboudghacem Andre Nemia Maurice Pindard Albert Zaire Robert Xowie Jacques Lalie
Montserrat	Chedmond Browne
United States Virgin Islands	Carlyle Corbin
Western Sahara	Naama Said Yumeni

Experts

Carlyle Corgin (United States Virgin Islands)

Eduardo Lara (Cuba)

Ivette Garcia Gonzales (Cuba)

Juan Mari Bras (Puerto Rico)

Olga Miranda (Cuba)

Phyllis Fleming-Banks (Anguilla)

Miguel Alvarez (Cuba)

Sir Fred Philips (Antigua and Barbuda)

Walton Brown (Bermuda)

Non-governmental and other organizations

African American Human Rights Foundation (United States)	Thomas Porter
Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas (Cuba)	Eduardo Delgado Bermũdez
Centro Estudios Asia y Oceanía (Cuba)	Michael González Sánchez
Centro Estudios de África y Medio Oriente (Cuba)	Armando Entralgo González Olga Ruffins Machíin
Centro Estudios de América (Cuba)	Adalberto Ronda Varona
Centro Estudios Europeos (Cuba)	Lázaro Mora Secade
Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico)	Wilma Reveron
Federación de Mujeres Cubanas (Cuba)	Carmelina Ramírez
Guam Commission on Decolonization (Guam)	Leland Bettis
Guam Landowners Association (Guam)	Ronald Teehan
Movimiento por la Paz y la Soberanía de los Pueblos (Cuba)	Jorge Rodríguez Grillo
Organización de Solidaridad con los Pueblos de África, Asia y América Latina (Cuba)	Lourdes Cervantes Vázquez
Unión Nacional de Juristas (Cuba)	Dorys Quintana Cruz
United Nations Association of the Virgin Islands (United States Virgin Islands)	Judith Bourne

Intergovernmental organizations

Association of Caribbean States	Riyad Insanally

Observers

Alberto L. Marquez Castillo

Alejandro Betts

Antonio Cousiño

Fernando Martin

Joe Bossano

Juan Antonio Franco Medina

Manuel Rodríguez

Rafael Anglada Lopez

Programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations

United Nations Development Programme	Thomas W. Gittens

Appendix II

Statement by Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada, President of the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to our country on the occasion of this important Seminar.

As you have reminded us, Cuba has been an active participant in the work of the Special Committee since the latter's establishment and has joined other members in the struggle to ensure that this United Nations body completely fulfils the mandate conferred upon it by the General Assembly, which is none other than the full implementation of the Assembly's historic Declaration proclaiming the right of all colonized peoples to exercise fully their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

We know that the history of this Committee has not been an easy one. It has not always had the necessary cooperation of those who were and are obligated under the General Assembly's democratically taken decision of 1960 and, as has been reiterated each year for the past four decades, it has not and will not be easy for it to fulfil its mission, despite the great importance that the international community attaches thereto.

The Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, declared by the General Assembly, has just ended. Unfortunately, however, this Decade will not go down in history as the period in which that problem was finally eradicated. Rather, it may be remembered for other, more notable features: for example, as the decade in which cholera reappeared and spread to many parts of the third world with a devastating force that some creative novelists associated with the past. It may be remembered as the decade in which the scourge of tuberculosis again fell on millions of people in the third world and the first world — even in the rich and ostentatious city in which the Committee and the United Nations have their headquarters — to the point that, according to the World Health Organization, more people died or suffered from tuberculosis in 1996, midway through the Decade, than in the entire recorded history of the human race. Of course, it may also be remembered as the decade in which the new human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic unleashed itself on the poor peoples of the world and became a weapon so deadly that today, we can calmly state that it will lead to a progressive decline in the population of several sub-Saharan nations in the years to come.

Thus, we have not achieved the objectives that the United Nations set for the last decade of the past century; rather, it will be remembered as the decade in which poverty grew and worsened until (once again, according to official United Nations statistics), by the end of the twentieth century, the number of people living below the poverty line was close to that of the population of the entire planet at the beginning of the century.

Inevitably, we must acknowledge with sadness, this decade will be viewed not as the moment in history that finally put an end to the oppression of men by other men or of nations by other nations; rather, it will stand as a reminder of the rise in "hegemonism" and inequality and a step backward in humankind's age-old aspiration to democracy.

For we may also recall this period of history as the decade of the Multilateral Investment Agreement and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). As you know, the Agreement is an idiotic scheme that was developed, conceived and negotiated in secret in the mid-1990s until a non-governmental organization managed to obtain a copy of this secretly negotiated document and publicized it by posting it on the Internet, thereby unleashing a debate involving the parliaments of more than one developed country whose members rightly complained that their governmental authorities were about to commit themselves to a document, an agreement, an undertaking which fundamentally affected the rights of the peoples whom they allegedly represented and which had never been considered by any legislative body. Of course, nothing was made public or discussed with civil society in that part of the world.

Oddly enough, the same year in which this scandal broke and this attempt to strengthen the domination of certain economic interests over the peoples of the world was made (and negotiated in secret), at the same time that this antidemocratic effort was giving rise to debate, over here, on this continent on which you meet today, the same thing was happening. In 1994, in the city of Miami, not far from here, the leaders of various nations of this hemisphere met at the invitation of the President of the United States to proclaim their commitment to "democracy" — the most misrepresented, distorted and victimized word in the history of political manipulation, as noted by Professor Kelson in the early 20th century. In addition to their talk of "democracy", they announced their intention to conclude a so-called "free trade agreement" that would be nothing other than a multilateral investment agreement — in other words, a document which, like the one negotiated in secret between several large countries, would be designed to give big business absolute freedom, to promote the free flow of capital and, by so doing, to restrict and even eliminate national sovereignty, workers' rights and environmental rights, all of which require that, rather than permitting unlimited capital movement, we should endeavour to regulate it and guarantee the rights of nations, peoples and the environment in the face of economic exploitation.

As we meet here in May 2001, over a month has passed since the third meeting of heads of State and government of this region in Quebec, at which they were on the point of announcing that this new agreement would be concluded and signed at the next meeting in 2003; however, due to the opposition and resistance of some Latin American States this has had to be postponed until 2005. But today, 23 May 2001, over a month after the end of the Third Summit of the Americas, that document, which exists and was prepared as long ago as 1994, is still secret and is the subject of continuing negotiations by the same gentlemen who tell the world that they are meeting only to defend, proclaim and promote "democracy".

Yesterday, a Cuban television programme revealed a portion of this document, which we had obtained and which has not yet been made available to or discussed by any parliament, trade union, student association or group of businessmen of the region but on which work continues, as it has done for over six years, in nine negotiating groups and four ministerial committees, none of which has informed the world and the people whose interests are being negotiated of what they are doing or propose to do.

Thus, the past decade will be remembered as the one in which the democratic rights of peoples gave way before a globalizing model, a type of society which seeks

to impose itself on a universal scale and which is characterized by the spread of what some, and now all of us, call "neoliberalism" but which offers nothing new and which naturally has nothing to do with the concept of liberty.

This idea of transforming all of Latin America and the Caribbean into an annex to the North American economy by subjugating the region to the interests of the huge United States monopolies is also nothing new. José Martí warned us of this over a century ago, alerting the peoples of the continent to the danger that loomed over them when, in the last decade of the nineteenth century, the States of Latin America were called, again up North, and urged supposedly to integrate their economies but, in fact, to subordinate them to that of the United States. Martí understood and explained that the strategic, fundamental, necessary and inevitable factor in halting this new empire's advance against our peoples was none other than the struggle of the peoples of Cuba and Puerto Rico for their independence. In his last and memorable letter, he stressed the need for timely action to prevent that empire from seizing the Antilles and, with that additional strength, falling upon our peoples of America.

In reality, FTAA, the concept of Latin America's subjugation and absorption by United States capitalism, was born about a century ago in Puerto Rico. This marked the beginning of the absorption of a Latin American nation: a Latin American people began to lose its national prerogatives and rights and to be subjugated to the interests of the huge monopolies of a foreign Power which, of course, was also trying to rob them of everything else, including their culture.

If that plan were to succeed, Latin America and the Caribbean would be "Puerto Ricanized"; the model imposed by force of arms on our brother people of Puerto Rico a century ago would be imposed on all the peoples of our continent.

For this reason, we attach particular importance to the decade that lies before us. If we failed or were unable to achieve the objectives set by the General Assembly during the last decade, if it proved impossible to eradicate colonialism, it is because these efforts coincided with the advance of forces opposed to the rights of peoples, of forces opposed to the independence of nations. This decade we are entering must be the decade of the peoples' counterattack, of their struggle to prevent this domineering mindset, which ignores the fundamental rights of the people, from being imposed throughout the world. In the region where this seminar is being held — here, in America — this battle requires first and foremost that we defeat the United States plan to annex Latin America and the Caribbean and to transform them into the model that has been successfully imposed on Puerto Rico.

Let me therefore mention the example of just one colony, just one of the territories and peoples subjected to colonialism: our sister island, Puerto Rico. For although the unhappy fate imposed on this people is the one they plan for us, the truth is that the Latin American and Caribbean peoples can prevent this and can use Puerto Rico itself as proof that such a task is possible because, following a century of economic absorption, a century of military servitude, a century of political domination, a century of efforts to deprive this people of its culture and its identity, they have been roundly defeated. Recently, the President of the Puerto Rican Senate, objecting to the fact that even at this late date, there are still plans to impose English as the official language of the territory, rejected that proposal and stated that it was absurd to try to establish as a nation's official language one which 90 per cent of its people does not understand or speak. The fact that a century later, Puerto Ricans still

speak and understand only Spanish; that a century later, they continue to call for protection of their culture and values; that they are also capable of uniting to reject domination by the empire that threatens, kills and destroys the land and people of the Puerto Rican Island of Vieques; that they are capable of displaying this degree of support, unity and loyalty to their national values, shows us that our Latin American and Caribbean peoples have sufficient strength, sufficient moral strength, sufficient spirituality and sufficient capacity for unity and cooperation in resistance and that in this effort, we will be able to defeat the attempt at annexation; rather, we will be able to save the great Latin American nation, which must always include Puerto Rico, and to achieve its genuine integration and the genuine, definitive independence to which José Martí in his time summoned all the nations of the hemisphere.

Thus, at least from the Latin American point of view, we are beginning a new decade at a time when the struggle for Puerto Rican independence is taking on greater importance than at any time since that of Martí. For, in the context of this struggle to prevent absorption of the continent, Latin American solidarity with the Puerto Rican people's cause must be a part of and must point the way in the battle for the independence and freedom of our own peoples.

Some day, and I want to be optimistic and to believe that by the end of this decade, unlike the previous one, we will finally be able to see tangible, substantial, significant progress in the eradication of colonialism and that this will also have been the decade in which we defeated "hegemonism" and those who seek to ignore the rights of us all.

Lastly, let me repeat that it is our pleasure to welcome you to Havana. We hope that you will enjoy your stay here as you experience the proverbial hospitality of our country and, at the same time, that your time here will be fruitful and useful and will contribute to the achievement of our common objective, the international community's target of eradicating colonialism, and that the Committee will leave Havana with renewed motivation to continue its noble and praiseworthy endeavours.

Appendix III

Statement by Julian R. Hunte, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Saint Lucia, Chairman of the Special Committee

On behalf of the members of the United Nations Special Committee on decolonization, I wish to thank the Government of Cuba for having so generously offered to host this first regional seminar of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism to review the political, economic and social conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories. The members of the Committee join me in expressing our gratitude for the fraternal hospitality extended to us since our arrival in Cuba.

I am particularly pleased to welcome to this seminar representatives from the Non-Self-Governing Territories. I would like to make special mention of the Honourable Governor of American Samoa, Tause Sunia, the Honourable Governor of Guam, Carl T. C. Gutierrez, the Honourable Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Peter Caruana, the Honourable Minister of State for External Affairs of the United States Virgin Islands, Mr. Carlyle Corbin, the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr. Maurice Ponga of New Caledonia, the Minister in charge of Customs Affairs and relations with Customs Institutions of New Caledonia, Mr. Roch Wamytan, and the Honourable Chedmond Browne, Member of Parliament of Montserrat.

We are also privileged to have in our midst the non-voting representative of American Samoa to the United States House of Representatives, Eni Faleomavaega, as well as many distinguished experts, and representatives of non-governmental organizations from the Caribbean and Atlantic regions.

It is especially gratifying that this first session of the new millennium is being held in Cuba, and in this historic and majestic Ciudad de la Habana, the venue of the 1985 United Nations Regional Seminar on decolonization, and most recently in 2000, the South Summit.

Cuba has been a consistent and long-standing supporter of the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, and presently serves with distinction as vice chair of the Special Committee. Indeed, Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and who is present with us here today, served as acting chairman of the Special Committee in 1998, and convened the important Pacific Regional Seminar that year in Fiji, where a critical review of the political evolution of the Non-Self-Governing Territories was undertaken.

Presently Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative Rafael Dausa Cespedes of Cuba plays an active role as a member of the bureau of the Special Committee, and continues to contribute invaluably to our work.

The presence of the President of the National Assembly and the Minister for Foreign Affairs at this inaugural meeting is further indication of the importance that the Government and people of Cuba ascribe to the cause of self-determination and decolonization for the people of this region and beyond.

During the proceedings this week, we will also observe the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights, which traditionally begins on 25 May every year, to reiterate the

determination of the international community to put an end to the anachronism of colonialism, in all its forms and manifestations, consistent with the principles of political equality, the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, and the resolutions the United Nations has adopted on decolonization.

Since its inception in 1961, the Special Committee has been instrumental in bringing about the greatest political transition in human history with the decolonization of 60 former Territories since the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in 1960. In this connection, over 85 million people, in the words of former Special Committee Chairman Renagi Lohia of Papua New Guinea, "have shed their dependent status since the Special Committee was established".

It is recognized that the first International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism covering the period 1991-2000 did not foster, as intended, the completion of full self-government for the people of the remaining, mostly small island, Non-Self-Governing Territories.

It is important to emphasize, however, that the process during the 1990s was advanced, to a degree, through the convening of the regional seminars, which provided a venue, in the geographic and cultural region where the Territories are located, for the exchange of information between the representatives of the Territories, non-governmental organizations, United Nations Member States, scholars and others.

These regional seminars serve to heighten awareness among United Nations Member States of the complexities of the situation in the individual Territories. These forums also serve to enhance the knowledge of the representatives of the Territories themselves about the statutory role of the United Nations in the process of self-determination and decolonization, consistent with Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter of the United Nations in reference to "respect for the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples".

The cross-fertilization between Pacific and Caribbean representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories at these seminars is a crucial element in the success of these sessions to date, confirming our belief that there is, indeed, an "island ethos" shared by those of us in the Caribbean and the Pacific, related not only to our vulnerability to natural and induced disasters, but also to our shared quest to govern ourselves. The convening of these seminars in the respective regions is critical to their success, and while the hosting of a similar session at United Nations Headquarters in New York, as some have advocated, could be useful, it should not replace the regional venue of the seminars. In any event, the Special Committee conducts a week-long session every July, during which time the representatives of the Territories have the opportunity to address the Committee. I call on those who advocate the shifting of the seminars to New York to instead facilitate the participation of the Territories in these regular sessions of the Special Committee.

Many island jurisdictions, since the end of the Second World War, have emerged from various forms of colonialism to exercise their right to self-determination, and to attain, through this process, political independence, integration with full political rights within the country with which they have integrated, or free association with another country with the maximum degree of autonomy.

The Caribbean and the Pacific offer models of these three recognized options, as defined by the General Assembly in its resolution 1541 (XV) of 1960, and as repeatedly reaffirmed in subsequent resolutions of the Assembly for over four decades. Accordingly:

(a) In the Caribbean is the group of small island independent States comprising the Caribbean Community that is synonymous with those small island States of the Pacific Islands Forum;

(b) In the Caribbean are island jurisdictions which have been integrated into the French Republic, Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guyana, while in the Pacific, there is the integrated United States state of Hawaii;

(c) In the Caribbean are associated States including the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, in association with the Netherlands, while in the Pacific, the associated States are the Cook Islands and Niue in association with New Zealand; and the Marshall Islands, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia in association with the United States.

However, in both the Caribbean and Pacific regions, there remain Non-Self-Governing Territories, administered by developed countries in sometimes sophisticated models of colonial governance which are often projected, and even perceived in the Territories themselves, as self-governing, irrespective of the objective reality. How a Territory arrived at its non-self-governing status, either by conquest, sale, voluntary cession, or any other method is of little consequence to whether or not that Territory is self-governing.

Those former Territories that have achieved a self-governing status were successful, to a great extent, because of the adherence to the parameters of self-determination as set forth in these three political options, based on the fundamental principle of political equality.

The distinguished former Ambassador of Ethiopia Tesfaye Tadesse, as former Chairman of the Special Committee, remarked in his opening statement to the 1990 Caribbean Regional Seminar, held in Barbados, that the flexibility in the self-determination process of these three recognized options, in his words, "refutes the misleading views of those who claim that the United Nations, and particularly the Special Committee, have nothing to offer but independence".

However, he made it clear that this did not constitute the political legitimization of the dependency arrangements at that time. These arrangements remain virtually unchanged today, over a decade later.

Thus, it is clear that the principles of full and absolute political equality must continue as the guiding standard in addressing the self-determination process of the small island Territories, if we are to avoid the spectre of "colonies in perpetuity".

Adherence to these principles is critical if we are to succeed in devising recommended solutions to advancing those Territories which have evolved to varying degrees of internal self-government, but nevertheless, still are subject to the unilateral authority of the administering Powers to make laws for the Territories, often against their wishes.

This is but a sketch of the colonial condition which characterizes most of the remaining small island Territories today, and is an anticipated area of serious

discussion at this seminar, where the views of participants will be sought, and given serious consideration by the Special Committee.

In preparing to convene this seminar over the next three days, I was reminded of the words of many who have preceded us in advancing the struggle for self-determination.

The late President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, wrote that the principle of self-determination meant the ability of a people to determine their own future, and to govern themselves without interference.

The late President of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah, advised that it is far better to govern yourself, than to be governed by anyone else.

The late Prime Minister of Jamaica, Michael Manley, spoke of the need to continue this struggle for the benefit of those who remain in the political periphery.

The perspective of several of my predecessor chairmen also provided important insight:

(a) Ambassador Rodriguez Parrilla, in his statement as Chairman of the 1998 Fiji Seminar, stated that "the decolonization process has entered the final phase in a world that is changing rapidly and is profoundly influenced by the challenges of globalization and international economic integration. People all over the world are demanding equity, justice and participation in the decisions that affect their daily lives, their well-being, their futures. These are basic aspirations that cannot be achieved if people are denied the opportunity to exercise control over their destiny";

(b) Ambassador Peter Donigi at the 1999 St. Lucia Seminar remarked that "we all [must] endeavour to cooperate in identifying and implementing measures in [the best interests of the peoples of the Territories] and as popularly desired by them, and subject to the general principles of international law, equity, transparency, accountability and good governance".

Consistent with these perspectives, this beginning of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism provides us with an opportunity to review the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations in decolonization, and to ensure that the appropriate resources, both human and financial, are devoted to the success of this process. It is not the time for "business as usual", and the often overly bureaucratic obstacles to the success of the work of the Special Committee must come to an end.

It is not for the Special Committee alone, however, to carry the torch. While it is the responsibility of the Special Committee to undertake many of the initiatives in furtherance of self-determination in the small island Territories, over-reliance on one United Nations committee, with the limited human resources and expertise provided to it, is insufficient to fulfil the comprehensive mandate of self-determination. If there is one lesson learned from the first International Decade, it is that, with notable exceptions such as the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations regional commissions, the wider United Nations system has not been forthcoming in carrying out their mandate to assist these Territories in their development process. Thus, vastly increased coordination with the wider United Nations system is required to meet the challenge, and the Special Committee is planning a joint meeting with the Economic and Social Council on methods to

ensure that the wider United Nations system implements its mandate in assisting the Territories.

Apart from the Special Committee and the wider United Nations system, the statutory responsibility for decolonization also lies with the administering Power. As I indicated at the opening ceremony of the Special Committee last February, it is my intention to accelerate the ongoing informal dialogue with those States that administer Territories, but it is also time that their formal cooperation with the Committee is resumed. The Special Committee has taken considerable steps to reform its operations during the 1990s, including eliminating its subcommittees, updating the language of its resolutions, and many other measures. The resumption of the tripartite dialogue between the Special Committee, the administering powers and the representatives of the Territories would contribute further to the success of our work.

Since the initiation of the first International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the process of self-determination has been advanced, but it has been a slow process, and it has been an incomplete process. The Special Committee therefore regards this regional seminar as a critical first step in this second International Decade, as we proceed to devise international strategies in a concerted effort to ensure that this sacred right to self-determination, this basic human right, is realized in all of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, so that the people might achieve their full political equality consistent with recognized international standards. Nothing short of this goal should be acceptable.

And as we begin this journey, the delegation of the Special Committee is pleased to welcome our seminar participants, and looks forward to the important deliberations before us over the next three days and beyond.

Appendix IV

Statement by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee

Last year, at the Pacific Regional Seminar held at Majuro, Marshall Islands, I briefed participants about the role of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. I have asked the Secretariat to recirculate that paper at this Seminar, but I should also like to give you an update and some clarifications on the work of the Special Committee, starting from where I left off last year.

Since our previous seminar, in May 2000, the Special Committee has continued to extend an invitation to the administering Powers to pursue a dialogue. As you well know, the Special Committee cannot fully carry out its mandate without the cooperation of the administering Powers. Every year, the General Assembly reiterates its call for the administering Powers to work with the Special Committee in implementing the 1960 Declaration and the many other resolutions on decolonization that have been adopted by the Assembly.

You will recall that, in 1960, the General Assembly adopted two resolutions on decolonization: the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, that is, resolution 1514 (XV), and resolution 1541 (XV), entitled "Principles which should guide Members in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter". The text of the Declaration is well known and so is the resolution on the Principles, which states that a Non-Self-Governing Territory can be said to have reached a full measure of self-government by: (a) emergence as a sovereign independent State; (b) free association with an independent State; or (c) integration with an independent State. These and other relevant resolutions on decolonization guide the work of the Special Committee.

The Special Committee has, throughout its existence, sought to maintain a dialogue with the administering Powers. In the past two years, it renewed such efforts around an initiative by which it would agree to discuss with the administering Powers specific work programmes for the Territories on a case-by-case basis. In this connection, the Special Committee consulted with the administering Powers and agreed with them that such discussions would be carried out informally. Two papers were worked out by the Special Committee to start up the process.

The first, approved at an informal meeting between the Committee and the administering Powers on 29 July 1999, contains Guidelines for Consultation on the Question of Decolonization.

The second, approved by the Special Committee at an informal meeting on 29 March 2000, contains a work programme that outlines in a general way the steps that would be involved in the consultations with the administering Powers in respect of the Territories. This "non-paper" was given to the administering Powers for their views. There were informal meetings with two administering Powers separately to hear their reaction to the work programme.

As a result of the consultations held with the administering Powers, it was agreed that the first two Territories that would be discussed would be American Samoa and Pitcairn. It was also agreed that specific work programmes would be

prepared for American Samoa and Pitcairn and that the administering Powers would ensure the participation of representatives of these Non-Self-Governing Territories at all stages of the discussions.

The understanding was that the administering Powers would come back each with their individual proposed programme of work for American Samoa and Pitcairn, respectively, and an indication on the manner they would ensure the participation of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the discussions.

In the meantime, another administering Power, which has kept in close contact with the Special Committee, regularly attends its meetings and keeps the Committee appraised of developments in the Territory it administers, has continued to inform the Committee of significant recent developments about which we hope to hear more when the Special Committee holds its session next month. I am referring to New Zealand and Tokelau.

In addition, the Special Committee is also following closely the process of implementation of the Nouméa Accord in New Caledonia. The administering Power has attended meetings of the Special Committee and representatives of the Territory have actively participated in the seminars of the Special Committee and in hearings on decolonization at the United Nations.

Thus, what I would like to emphasize in this process is that the Special Committee has been making every effort to engage the administering Powers in a constructive dialogue. And it has done so in good faith and in the hope that novel approaches might bring about progress in the area of decolonization.

Early in the year, when the new Chairman of the Special Committee was elected, Robert Hunte, now Minister for Foreign Affairs of St. Lucia, he stated that it was his intention to continue the process begun under the chairmanship of Ambassador Peter Donigi of Papua New Guinea. The current Chairman of the Special Committee thus announced that Ambassador Donigi would be chairing the working group that would carry out the consultations envisaged with the administering Powers for the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region mentioned above.

At this point, to use a sports imagery, "the ball is in their court". The administering Powers are expected to come back to the Special Committee with specific programmes of work. Unfortunately, this has not happened yet.

A few questions have been raised by participants in previous seminars and by a number of persons concerned with decolonization regarding the initiative by the Special Committee. This briefing is an attempt to address some of those questions.

For instance, looking at the general work programme, some have questioned whether all the steps outlined there apply to all the Territories equally. Our reply has been consistently that a work programme would be developed for individual Territories to take into account each unique situation. It is not the intention of the Special Committee to have any particular formula applied to all the Territories. But the Special Committee will be guided by the Charter of the United Nations, by the 1960 Declaration, by resolutions 1514 (XV), 1654 (XVI), 2625 (XXV), 53/67, and 55/147 to name but a few among many other relevant resolutions.

A few have asked what a specific programme of work is.

The Special Committee has adopted the term "specific programme of work" to signify a structured discussion, where goals are outlined, activities that will take place are described and dates — or a calendar of discussions and activities — are spelled out in regard to one Territory, taking into account the unique characteristics of that Territory.

Still others have asked about the order in which we would take the Territories; is there an order of priority?

The Special Committee arrived at an agreement with the administering Powers jointly, after consultations, that American Samoa and Pitcairn would be discussed first. The Special Committee would follow the same approach in identifying other Territories to be discussed.

Even though, with the exception of New Zealand, we have not received word from the administering Powers as to when they intend to propose a work programme for the first two Territories, the Special Committee is aware that, once a work programme for each of those Territories is agreed upon, there will be practical, administrative and financial arrangements that would also have to be discussed and agreed to.

Finally, some have asked if the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories will participate. How is the Special Committee going to make sure that this happens?

This is part of the consultations with the administering Powers and an essential part of the agreement reached with them to discuss American Samoa and Pitcairn. In their proposal of a work programme, the administering Powers are to indicate what arrangements will be made to secure the participation of representatives of the Territories concerned.

Others have asked whether the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples means that the Special Committee and the United Nations are determined that all the Territories should be independent. Our reply has also been consistent regarding the options available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories within the context of the relevant General Assembly resolutions. In the past, some Non-Self-Governing Territories have become integrated into an independent State or have chosen to establish a free association with an independent State. Others have chosen independence. At the Pacific Regional Seminar, there was a discussion about a "fourth option", presumably looking at arrangements that do not conventionally fit under the three options envisaged in resolution 1541 (XV).

For the Special Committee, the choices as to the future status of a Non-Self-Governing Territory, in accordance with the Declaration and the relevant resolutions, must take place within a framework that allows the United Nations to satisfy itself or certify that a free act of self-determination has taken place. In one case in recent history (East Timor), the United Nations organized and conducted a popular consultation where the people of a Territory voted on options regarding the future status of the Territory.

During the discussions leading to the eventual adoption of the general work programme, members of the Special Committee were keenly aware of the particular circumstances of each Territory and the need to proceed on a case-by-case basis.

The urgency of the Special Committee's mandate, which it has discharged for the past 40 years, is as compelling today as it was in 1961. In fact, as we launch with this seminar the series of activities that the Special Committee will undertake in the context of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, we are determined to persevere in our efforts and, as we have done in the past, to seek a constructive dialogue with the administering Powers. We will also continue to pursue close consultations, through the Chairman and the Bureau of the Committee, with the President of the Economic and Social Council with a view to promoting international assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Appendix V

Message from the Secretary-General

During the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights, I send my greetings to all who have gathered in Havana for the Caribbean Regional Seminar on decolonization.

The Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly in 1960, strongly affirmed the right of self-determination. The Declaration, along with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights instruments, form the basis of the United Nations role and responsibility in democratization and in upholding the principles of self-determination, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolution on decolonization. Since its adoption, more than 80 million people have attained independence, but there are still 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories remaining, worldwide.

As an arm of the United Nations, the Special Committee organizes seminars, such as this one, to give the more than two million people who live in these Territories the chance to make their views known on the unique problems they face. The information gathered in these seminars has helped to raise awareness in the international community about these problems. As a result, last December, the General Assembly proclaimed the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. This regional seminar is the first of its kind to be convened by the Special Committee, since then. It provides us with a unique opportunity to recommit ourselves to the goal of assuring that all peoples can exercise their right of self-determination in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolution on decolonization.

Decolonization is clearly one of the great success stories of the last half-century, and we must see the process through to its end. In that spirit, I would like to thank the Government of Cuba for its generosity in hosting this event, and wish you all a most successful seminar.

Appendix VI

Message from the President of the General Assembly

The international community annually observes the week beginning on 25 May, as the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights.

This year, we begin the Second Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. In this context, the Plan of Action presented by the Secretary-General in 1991 and updated in 2001 in document A/56/61, constitutes a principled reminder of the work that remains to be done in order to reach the objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which the General Assembly adopted in December 1960, over four decades ago.

It is thus a time to renew the commitment of the world community to supporting the aspirations of the peoples of the remaining Territories for the full implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) containing the 1960 Declaration.

The United Nations has made a significant contribution to decolonization. During its existence, many Non-Self-Governing Territories have achieved a self-governing status and many of them have become independent nations. Since 1961, the work of the Organization in the area of decolonization has been carried out by the Special Committee, entrusted by the Assembly with the historic mandate of examining the application of the Declaration and making suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of its implementation.

As we observe the Week of Solidarity, the Special Committee, the policy-making organ of the General Assembly on decolonization, is holding its Caribbean Regional Seminar in Havana with the participation of representatives of Member States, the peoples of the Territories, organizations within the United Nations system, experts on the Caribbean and representatives of civil society. It should be a unique opportunity to learn more about the current situation in the Territories, particularly those in the Caribbean region, and listen to the views of their inhabitants.

Just a few months ago, I had the privilege of paying a visit to East Timor, a Territory currently administered by the United Nations, which is just emerging into independent life. Although it was a relatively short visit, I was able to experience first-hand the sense of expectation and hope of the East Timorese as they look to the future. The immense challenges a nascent East Timor will face, however, are not greater than the determination with which the East Timorese are preparing to assume full responsibility for their destiny as an independent nation.

On this commemorative occasion, we look back with satisfaction at the achievements of the United Nations in the area of decolonization, but more importantly, we look ahead at the concerted work that must be carried out to fulfil the objectives of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Obviously, these tasks will require the cooperation of the administering Powers with the Special Committee. There is also much that can be done to assist the Territories, many of which are small islands, by the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations.

In my capacity as President of the General Assembly, I take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of supporting and implementing the decisions of the Assembly on decolonization in order to achieve the ultimate goal of the Second Decade: a world free of colonialism.

Appendix VII

Resolution on expression of appreciation to the Government and people of Cuba

The participants in the Caribbean Regional Seminar,

Having met from 23 to 25 May 2001 at Havana, for the purpose of assessing the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and, in particular, the review of the pressing questions relating to the work programme of the Special Committee for the Second Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Having heard the important statement by Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada, President of the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba,

Express their profound gratitude to the Government and people of Cuba for providing the Special Committee with the necessary facilities for its seminar, for the outstanding contribution they have made to the success of the seminar and, in particular, for the very generous and kind hospitality and the warm and cordial reception accorded to the participants and observers throughout their stay in Cuba, particularly by President Fidel Castro.